■ Entertainment / A26
Priscilla, Tolits very much alive

■ Across / A15
Palparan says Samar deaths small sacrifices

■ Sports / A21
Hamilton shines as Pistons even East finals series

■ News/ A2
Meralco seeks new rate hike of 14.76¢ per kWh

■ World / A8
Dutch likely to reject EU Charter

Sandigan orders detention of Garcia at Camp Crame

By Nelson F. Flores and Luige A. del Puerto

IT'S THE Philippine National Police custodial center at Camp Crame for retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

The ex-Armed Forces comptroller was taken yesterday to the facility, whose inmates have included suspected terrorists and bandits,

SANDIGAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Solon's 'bagman' named Llasos in PNP records

By Luige A. del Puerto

THIS COP Charlie is a Llasos, not a Yasos.

He has been a bodyguard of Albay Rep. Carlos Imperial since 2001. And he will continue to be so unless

SOLON'S/ A6

AY SUS!
PANGALAN LANG,E!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Thursday, June 2, 2005 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 174   P18   website: www.inq7.net

More firms willing to fight corruption

SWS poll: 99% think there is gov't graft

By Fe B. Zamora

MORE bad news: Corruption in government is widespread as ever, according to a survey among business executives by the Social Weather Stations.

So what else is new? The same SWS survey showed that more company executives were willing to put their money into a campaign to fight corruption, saying rampant graft raised the cost of doing business by up to 15 percent.

The survey, conducted from Jan. 21 to March 15 in five metropolitan areas, found businessmen were willing to donate an average of 5 percent of their net profits to an anticorruption campaign. Metro Manila businessmen were ready to shell out an average of 3 percent of their profits, up from one percent when the SWS began these polls in 2000.

"They (respondents) reveal that, on one hand, the state of corruption has hardly budged in the past five years," SWS president Mahar Mangahas said during the presentation of the 5th SWS Survey of Enterprises on Corruption held in Makati City.

"On the other hand, the private sector's indignation and willingness to participate, both financially and personally, in fighting corruption has been growing

MORE/ A4

REM ZAMORA

THE THREE alleged "jueteng" bagmen of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo—Leon Katigbak (left), Rene Maglanque and former Vice Mayor Arturo Naguit—meet outside the Department of Justice building after filing libel complaints against whistle-blower Wilfredo Mayor.

Cooperate in probe, bishop urges GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE face of an apparent government effort to discredit and scare off witnesses, Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to cooperate in the Senate investigation of the "jueteng" controversy, saying nobody involved in the illegal numbers game was a saint but this did not mean the truth would not come out.

Also yesterday, three friends and political allies of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo filed the first criminal charges against Wilfredo Mayor two days after the latter's testimony at the start of the Senate hearing on jueteng operations in which he alleged that the son of the President had received P600,000 in monthly protection money when he was vice governor of Pampanga.

The younger Arroyo has denied the charge.

The charges of false testimony and libel were filed with the Department of Justice by former Transportation Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque, former Vice Mayor Arturo Naguit of Minalin, Pampanga, and stockbroker Leon Katigbak.

Mayor had identified them as Arroyo's bagmen. The three denied the allegation.

Cruz said the testimony of Mayor should not be judged on the basis of his being a former jueteng operator. "Nobody can be a saint

COOPERATE/ A6

Lomibao admits PNP can't stop 'jueteng'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

THIS comes straight from the top man himself: The 117,000-strong Philippine National Police cannot stop "jueteng."

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao made the admission at the House inquiry into the multibillion-peso illegal numbers racket that has again sparked a controversy involving top government officials.

"That is the reality on the ground," Lomibao told members of the House committee on public order and security.

Lomibao declared the country "jueteng-free" at 5 p.m. last Friday, but yesterday he said the PNP did not have enough personnel and resources to conduct daily raids on illegal gambling dens.

He expressed support for a proposal in Congress to revisit Republic Act No. 9287—the law passed in 2004 imposing harsher penalties on those engaged in illegal gambling—to address its flaws.

Admitting that the jueteng scandal was a "national embarrassment, especially for us in the government," committee chair Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr. summoned Lomibao and other PNP officials to explain their failure to stamp out jueteng and look into the "pros and cons of legalizing a national malady."

Under questioning by Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Lomibao did not state a categorical position on proposals to legalize jueteng or other games of chance.

"But maybe I can venture into [stating an] opinion without fear of deviating from the institutional position of the PNP, which is that [jueteng] should not be legalized," Lomibao said.

He said his "personal view" was in support of a "well-researched study" by a retired police officer, Supt. Wally Sumbrero.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest child, who has been accused of receiving jueteng payola, attended the hearing to show that he was "not hiding."

LOMIBAO/ A6

₱1.1-B gov't education aid released

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced the release of P1.1 billion in education assistance to government employees a week before the opening of school year 2005-06.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the enrollment bonus was promised by President Macapagal-Arroyo in February. At a news conference, Boncodin said that all government employees were entitled to the bonus, including police and military personnel, teachers, contractuals, casuals and even those who were unmarried.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad told reporters yesterday that some 22 million students would be trooping back to school on Monday, declaring that all was well.

A dozen college students did not quite agree, however, and they stripped outside Malacañang to protest what they said was the deteriorating

P1.1-B GOV'T/ A4

Ex-FBI official is 'Deep Throat'

REUTERS

AMERICAN HERO? Former FBI Deputy Director Mark Felt, alias "Deep Throat," gives a thumbs-up to the press from behind the living room window of his daughter Joan's (behind) home in California.

WASHINGTON—Breaking a silence of 30 years, former FBI official W. Mark Felt on Tuesday stepped forward as "Deep Throat," the secret Washington Post source that helped bring down President Richard M. Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

Within hours, the paper confirmed his claim. "It's the last secret" of the story, said Ben Bradlee, the paper's top editor at the time the riveting political drama played out three decades ago.

It tumbled out in stages—first when a lawyer quoted Felt in a magazine article as having said he was the source; then when the former FBI man's family issued a statement hailing him as a "great American hero." Finally, the Post's confirmation resolved one of the most enduring mysteries in American politics and journalism.

The scandal, which led to the resignation of Nixon, began with a burglary and attempted tapping of phones in Democratic offices at the Watergate office building during the 1972 election campaign. It went on to include disclosures of covert Nixon administration spying on and retaliation

EX-FBI/ A4

BOB Woodward (left) and Carl Bernstein, the Washington Post reporters who broke the Watergate scandal wide open in the 1970s, arrive in Washington. They confirmed that Felt was the key source of their stories. AP

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Nothern and Western Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/02/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Meralco seeks rate hike of 14.76¢/kWh

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, is seeking a 14.76-centavo, or 2.1 percent, per kilowatt-hour rate increase, saying it needed the revenues to meet rising costs.

The proposed rate increase is 1.2 centavos more than the 13.58 centavos per kWh that Meralco applied for in October 2003, and which the Supreme Court rejected. Meralco had decided to withdraw the earlier petition.

The new rate hike being sought by Meralco, which supplies electricity to 4 million homes and businesses in Manila and surrounding areas, is likely to be opposed by consumers who are already struggling with record-high oil prices.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it would contest Meralco's latest petition at the state regulator, the Energy Regulatory Commission.

In the new petition it filed with the ERC, Meralco said the increase it was seeking would merely allow it to achieve a return on rate base (RORB), a measure of profitability, of 15.93 percent.

Meralco posted a net loss of P1.7 billion in the first quarter of 2005 and P2.6 billion for the whole of 2004.

The company said its inability to attain reasonable profitability has reduced its funding for required projects by as much as 40 percent a year on average.

Bayan said this justification for the new rate hike was "unacceptable."

"They want to increase their RORB so that they could fund their projects. They want consumers to be the ones paying for their expansion and other projects. That is simply not right. Capital outlay should be the burden of the owners of Meralco, not the customers," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

"Unless they want to make us stockholders of Meralco, we should not be paying a single centavo for future projects of the distribution firm. We should only be made to pay for services already rendered by Meralco," he said.

Meralco is 25 percent owned by the government, 9 percent by the Philippine unit of Spanish utility Union Fenosa, 17 percent by the Lopez Group's First Philippine Holdings, 8 percent by the Meralco Pension Plan and the rest by various shareholders. The Lopez group has retained management control of the utility.

The ERC had granted Meralco provisional approval to raise its rates by an average of 12 centavos per kWh effective January 2004, but the implementation was stopped by the Supreme Court.

The SC eventually annulled the commission's provisional approval after receiving complaints from consumer groups, which said regulators had not consulted them before authorizing the rate raise, Meralco's first since 1994.

Meralco and the ERC filed separate motions for reconsideration of the ruling.

But even before the high court could issue a final decision, Meralco decided to withdraw the rate hike application and file a new one.

Meralco, which has been struggling to complete a P30-billion refund to consumers for years of overbilling as ordered by the high court in November 2002, said it would also refund around P90 million to customers who were charged the 12-centavo rate hike prior to the SC halt.

"Meralco customers who were charged the 12-centavo rate hike will be refunded. These customers, numbering around 1.8 million, will have their refund in full reflected in their bills starting July 1," said Elpi Cuna Jr., Meralco vice president for corporate communication.

Bayan's Reyes said the refund should include interest as Meralco had the consumers' money in its coffers for more than a year.

Meralco buys most of its electricity from state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), which late last year raised power costs by 40 percent.

MUTINEERS' WIVES APPEAL

President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to, from left, Jacqueline Alvarino, wife of 2Lt. Segundino Alvarino; Rowena Dingle, wife of 1Lt. Jose Enrico; Evelyn San Juan, wife of 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan, and Jesserine Hiponia, wife of Pfc. Winston Hiponia, who appealed to her to ease the punishment meted out to their husbands for taking part in the Oakwood mutiny of July 2003. The court-martial of 30 junior officers who took part in the failed power grab was postponed again yesterday after the acting president of the military tribunal was expelled on the motion of 1Lt. Warren Lee Dagupon, who exercised his right to issue a preemptory challenge. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gov't sees peace at hand in Mindanao after meet

PEACE will soon be achieved in Mindanao following the successful holding of consultations by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the government said yesterday.

There was "unanimous support within the MILF central committee for the peace negotiations that are now going on between the government and the rebel group," said Silvestre Afable, the government's chief negotiator who attended the last day of the three-day assembly in the MILF's Darapanan camp in Maguindanao.

"On the part of the government, we feel that peace is near, at hand, in Mindanao," Afable said.

MILF chair Ebrahim Murad earlier said the consultations were held for the MILF to get a fresh mandate to represent the "Bangsamoro people" in the peace negotiations.

He said the talks were already in the final stage as the MILF and government panels had agreed on almost all the issues, except for governance, considered the most contentious issue in the negotiations.

Afable said the peace negotiations were "at a threshold," noting that the number of armed conflicts between government and MILF forces had drastically gone down.

Since 2001, there were 500 incidents of armed conflict between the two sides every year, he said. Last year, these incidents dropped to 70, Afable said.

The next round of talks will be held in Malaysia sometime this month.

Afable said he expected the two sides to have a "meeting of minds" on ancestral domain, the Muslims' demand for their right to profit from the resources of their traditional areas.

He said the issue would be resolved "both to the interest of Filipino Muslims and to our Constitution."

Mindanao's Muslims affirmed the mandate of the MILF to represent them in the peace process in a resolution approved during the three-day consultations, according to Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chief for political affairs.

Jaafar presided over the consultations which brought together some 45 Muslim provincial and city leaders at the MILF's Darapanan camp in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Jaafar said the resolution did not include the "new formula" to be presented by the MILF peace panel at the resumption of talks in Kuala Lumpur this month.

He said the Muslims gave the MILF leadership the freedom to come up with the formula that it believed would solve the decades-old conflict in Mindanao.

Jaafar said the formula would not include autonomy. *Christine O. Avendaño; Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OFW gets death for slay of Pakistani taxi driver

A FILIPINO overseas worker was sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for killing a Pakistani taxi driver who tried to force him into performing sexual acts in May 2002.

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said it would exhaust all legal options to save Reynaldo "Fahad" Cortez from beheading, a punishment imposed by a sharia court after the taxi driver's family refused to accept blood money.

Cortez, who said he stabbed the victim in self-defense, was also convicted of frustrated murder for wounding another Pakistani cab driver who gave chase when Cortez fled the crime scene.

The Riyadh court initially heeded Cortez's claim of self-defense and sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment in 2003. It reduced the jail term to 10 years in response to an appeal last year.

But following hearings last month on the private rights aspect of the case, the court sentenced Cortez to death after the victim's family turned down the offered blood money amounting to 100,000 Saudi rials (P1.45 million).

"(The family's refusal) effectively meant that they were seeking the maximum penalty of death," the DFA said.

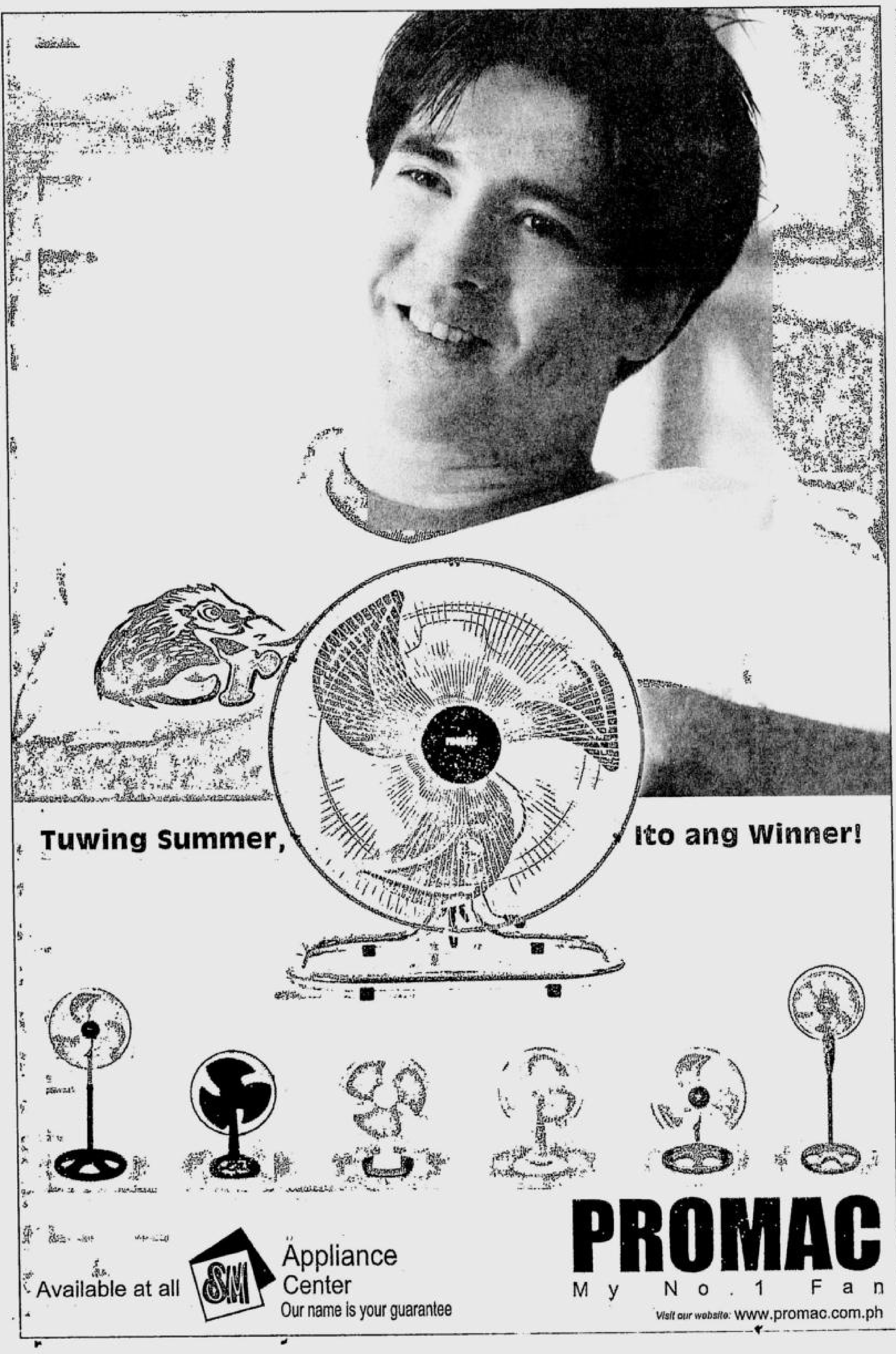
With the May 30 verdict not yet final and executory, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has ordered the Philippine embassy in Riyadh to exert fresh efforts to convince the victim's family to accept the money.

In a separate incident, three Kuwaiti policemen were sentenced to seven to 10 years in prison for repeatedly raping a runaway Filipino domestic helper who had sought refuge in their station in 2003.

Kuwait's top court, whose verdicts are final, sentenced Mohammed Abdullah to 10 years in prison, while Mohammed Falah and Abdul Latif Johar were each given seven-year jail terms, their lawyer said on Tuesday.

The victim, then 18 years old, had fled her employer's house and sought protection at the police station when the rape took place in November 2003.

DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said the girl had long since returned to the Philippines. *Volt Contreras*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Oil firms slash LPG prices by 50¢

REFLECTING the lower cost of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the world market, Petron Corp., Caltex Phil. Inc., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Total (Phil.) Corp. slashed the prices of their cooking gas by 50 centavos a kilogram.

Effective 6 p.m. yesterday, the price of TotalGaz went down by P5.50 per 11-kg cylinder. Petron and Shell rolled back their LPG prices at 12:01 a.m. today, while Caltex altered its price effective 6 a.m. today.

TotalGaz now retails at around P385 per 11-kg cylinder, Shellane between P400 and P410, Petron between P384 and P394, while Caltex never discloses the price range of its LPG.

The oil companies said the softening of LPG contract prices in the international market prompted them to reduce their cooking gas prices.

From $422.10 per metric ton (MT) in May, the international contract price of LPG fell by $27 per MT to $395.10 this month.

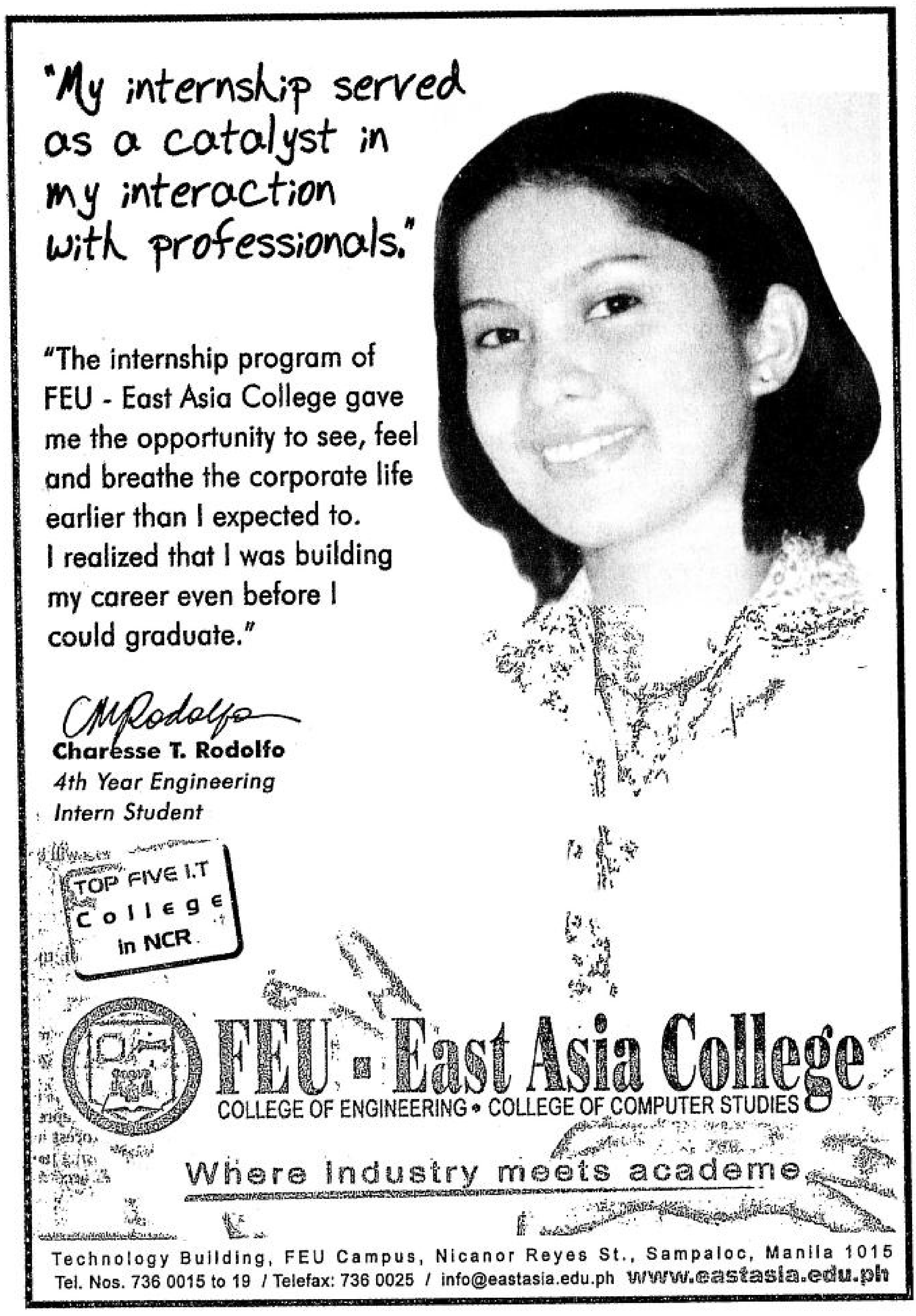
Total said it would continue monitoring the market for developments so that it could adjust its prices accordingly.

The oil firm has a nationwide LPG market share of 5.7 percent.

Pryce Gases Inc. vice president for external affairs Gerry Quisumbing said his company would likely wait until next week to adjust prices.

"We still have a lot of high-priced inventory. The LPG supply under the new price will not arrive until next week," he said.

Abigail L. Ho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₱1.1-B gov't education aid released

From page A1

state of the education system. The students, all young men who did not bother to cover their faces or bodies, waved placards as they paraded for about 15 minutes at a busy intersection before police shooed them away.

Naked truth

"The naked truth is that the government never treats education as a basic right," they said in a statement. They said students will suffer from a shortage of classrooms, desks and books.

"Unless more funds are funneled into education, public school students will continue to fare poorly in math, science and English—subjects that Filipinos must excel in to survive and thrive in the highly competitive global market," Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz wrote recently.

13M in elementary

Abad said the bulk of public school students would be in the elementary level with 13 million in school year 2005-06. There are around 37,000 public elementary schools in the country. Another five million students will report to 5,700 public high schools. Private elementary and high schools account for two million students.

Also, there will be a total of two million college students going back to school on Monday.

Shortage problem

Abad said the department had solved the problem of shortages in public schools, adding that teacher-student ratios are 1:36 in the elementary level and 1:40 in the high school level.

He explained that the problem is not the lack of teachers but the distribution of current teachers on duty. "There are areas where there is an excess of teachers while there are other areas which are sorely lacking them."

The department recently hired some 10,000 new teachers.

New classrooms

Some 13,000 new classrooms around the country have been constructed and are ready for occupancy once classes start on June 6, Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said. Classroom backlog was earlier put at about 52,000.

Public schools also need about five million desks and chairs.

Abad said his department had bought sufficient books this school year, but it could not bring them to the provinces because of a funding shortage to cover freight costs.

He said during a recent visit to the Subic Bay Freeport that soft drink delivery trucks were being tapped to distribute the books.

National network

He said Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., which has a national distribution network, had committed to deliver textbooks to public schools in the provinces.

"Public schools can now have enough books for their students. Each pupil will be getting a book because we intend to attain a 1:1 ratio in terms of books and schoolchildren," he said.

The department has set up an action center for complaints. The DepEd Action Center could be reached through telephone numbers 636-1663, 632-1361 to 71; mobile number 09194560027 and e-mail address action@deped.gov.ph. Text messages could be sent through DETEXT on 262 for Smart users and 2326 for Globe subscribers. *Alcuin Papa, Christine O. Avendaño, Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Reuters*

More firms willing to fight graft

From page A1

rapidly," Mangahas said.

According to the survey, only one percent of the respondents said they believed there was no corruption in government. A total of 66 percent of the managers polled thought there was "a lot" of corruption in the public sector, while 28 percent said they thought there was only "some" corruption.

As in previous surveys, the Bureau of Customs, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue were deemed the most corrupt.

The three agencies were followed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine National Police and the Land Transportation Office.

Mangahas said the widespread perception of corruption in the AFP was largely the result of the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former AFP comptroller who allegedly amassed unexplained wealth of over P300 million. *(See story on front page.)*

Companies said they were asked for bribes in getting local and government permits and licenses (36 percent of respondents), in paying income taxes (30 percent), getting national government permits and licenses (38 percent), complying with import regulations (21 percent), collecting receivables from the government (18 percent), supplying the government with goods or services (16 percent), and making use of government incentives (10 percent).

Mangahas noted that there seemed to be less solicitation of bribes outside Metro Manila when permits, licenses and income taxes were involved.

The survey, however, indicated that businessmen were likewise to blame for fostering a culture of corruption in government.

A total of 54 percent said most or almost all companies in their own lines of business practiced bribery to win public sector contracts, the median estimated allotment for bribery being 15 percent.

Bright spots

"But, there are bright spots," Mangahas said.

A total of 75 percent said their companies were "interested" in donating funds to support groups fighting corruption.

A majority of the respondents said they were willing to volunteer staff members to join a government monitoring project (62 percent) or a bids and awards committee of government agencies on company time (57 percent).

Fifty-eight percent said they themselves or the company's senior staff were willing to be trained for anticorruption work at their own firm's expense.

MANGAHAS

Even so, the survey found that only 8 percent of those who witnessed an act of corruption would report the matter to a public or private anticorruption group.

The rest said they would not report the act of corruption for the following reasons: "Nothing would be done anyway" (60 percent), "they couldn't prove it" (46 percent), "standard practice" (43 percent), and "afraid of reprisal" (43 percent).

Only two of 26 agencies—the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange, got the higherst positive "sincerity" ratings (percentage "sincere" minus percentage "insincere") in fighting corruption. The SEC got a plus-55 rating and the PSC, plus-52.

Sincerity ratings of between plus-31 and plus-50 were obtained by the Supreme Court (plus-48), Department of Health (plus-40), and barangay governments (plus-31).

Mediocre rating

The Office of the President got a "mediocre" sincerity score lower than plus-10.

The poll was funded by the Asia Foundation and the US Agency for International Development. The survey had a total sampling size of 701 respondents—232 coming from large enterprises and 469 representing small and medium enterprises.

A total of 351 respondents were from Metro Manila, 75 from the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas industrial zones, 100 from Metro Cebu, 100 from Metro Davao and 75 from the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has launched a program to clean up the public procurement, public works and revenue collection services of the government with the help of consultant Tony Kwok, Hong Kong's retired top graftbuster.

The effort has yet to yield significant results in curbing corruption. *With a report from AFP*

Ex-FBI official is 'Deep Throat'

From page A1

against a host of perceived enemies.

But the most devastating disclosure was Nixon's own role in trying to cover up his administration's involvement.

"I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat," Felt, the former No. 2 man at the FBI, was quoted as saying in Vanity Fair magazine. The former FBI official had kept his secret even from his family.

John Dean, counsel in Nixon's White House and the government's leading informant in the Watergate investigation, said Felt's admission raised more questions than it answered. Among them, how Felt gained access to the information he had given to the Post, said Dean, who served four months in prison for his role in the scandal.

"How in the world could Felt have done it alone?" Dean asked in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. He said he couldn't see how Felt, then in charge of the FBI's day-to-day operations, could have had time to meet reporters in parking garages at night and leave secret messages to arrange meetings.

Poor health

Felt, now 91, lives in Santa Rosa, California, and is said to be in poor mental and physical health because of a stroke. His family did not immediately make him available for comment, asking the news media to respect his privacy "in view of his age and health."

A grandson, Nick Jones, read a statement. "The family believes that my grandfather, Mark Felt Sr., is a great American hero who went well above and beyond the call of duty at much risk to himself to save his country from a horrible injustice," it said. "We all sincerely hope the country will see him this way as well."

In a statement issued later, Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein said: "W. Mark Felt was 'Deep Throat' and helped us immeasurably in our Watergate coverage. However, as the record shows, many other sources and officials assisted us and other reporters for the hundreds of stories that were written in The Washington Post about Watergate."

Among other things, Deep Throat urged Woodward and Bernstein to follow the money trail—from the financing of burglars who broke into the Democratic National Committee offices to the financing of Nixon's reelection campaign.

The two reporters and Bradlee had kept the identity of Deep Throat secret at Felt's request, saying his name would be revealed only upon his death. But then Felt revealed it himself.

In a story posted Tuesday night on its website, the Post said Felt's admission caught Woodward and others at the newspaper by surprise. Woodward and Bernstein received an e-mailed copy of Vanity Fair's story from the magazine on Tuesday morning.

Felt's family had talked with Woodward about possibly writing a book with him to reveal Deep Throat's identity, e-mailing him as recently as last weekend, the newspaper reported.

Visit to Felt

Woodward, who had visited Felt as recently as 1999, had reservations about Felt's mental condition and wondered whether Felt was competent to undo the long-standing pledge of anonymity, the Post reported.

Even the existence of Deep Throat, nicknamed for an X-rated movie of the 1970s, was kept secret by the Post for some time. But Woodward and Bernstein later revealed their reporting had been aided by a Nixon administration source in their best-seller "All the President's Men."

A hit movie starring Robert Redford as Woodward, Dustin Hoffman as Bernstein, and Hal Holbrook as Deep Throat was made in 1976. In the film, Holbrook's shadowy, cigarette-smoking character met Redford in dark parking garages and provided clues about the scandal.

The movie portrayed cloak-and-dagger methods employed by Woodward and Deep Throat. When Woodward wanted a meeting, he would position an empty flowerpot containing a red flag on his apartment balcony. When Deep Throat wanted to meet, the hands of a clock would appear written inside Woodward's New York Times.

The identity of the source has sparked endless speculation over three decades. Nixon's chief of staff Alexander Haig, White House press aide Diane Sawyer, White House counsel John Dean, speechwriter Pat Buchanan and adviser Len Garment were among those mentioned as possibilities.

Felt himself was mentioned several times over the years as a candidate for Deep Throat, but he regularly denied he was the source.

"I would have done better," Felt told The Hartford Courant in 1999. "I would have been more effective. Deep Throat didn't exactly bring the White House crashing down, did he?"

Passed over

Felt had hoped to succeed mentor J. Edgar Hoover as FBI director after Hoover's death, but was passed over by Nixon for the job.

Nixon aide Charles "Chuck" Colson worked closely with Felt in the Nixon administration and expressed surprise.

"Mark first served this country with honor, and I can't imagine how Mark Felt was sneaking in dark alleys leaving messages under flower pots and violating his oath to keep this nation's secrets. I cannot compute that with the Mark Felt that I know," Colson said in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press. Colson pleaded no contest to obstruction of justice in the scandal and served time in prison.

Another Nixon associate who wound up behind bars, G. Gordon Liddy, said he didn't consider Felt a hero.

"If he were interested in performing his duty, he would have gone to the grand jury with his information," Liddy, who was finance counsel at Nixon's reelection committee and helped direct the break-in, said in an interview on CNN.

The FBI on Tuesday declined to comment on Felt's admission.

Reservations

Felt had expressed reservations in the past about revealing his identity, and about whether his actions were appropriate for an FBI man, his grandson Nick said.

According to the article, Felt once told his son, Mark Jr., that he did not believe being Deep Throat "was anything to be proud of. ... You (should) not leak information to anyone."

Family members thought otherwise and persuaded Felt to talk about his role in the Watergate scandal, saying he deserved to receive accolades before his death.

Daughter Joan argued that her father could "make enough money to pay some bills, like the debt I've run up for the children's education."

"As he recently told my mother, 'I guess people used to think Deep Throat was a criminal, but now they think he's a hero,'" Nick said.

Woodward and Bernstein were the first reporters to link the Nixon White House and the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters. Nixon, facing impeachment for helping to cover up the break-in, resigned in August 1974.

Forty government officials and members of Nixon's reelection committee were convicted on felony charges.

Felt himself was convicted in 1980 for authorizing illegal break-ins at homes of people associated with the radical Weather Underground. He was pardoned by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. *AP*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Japanese admits story was a hoax

TOKYO—The mediator who tried to arrange a meeting with two alleged Japanese soldiers thought to be hiding in the Philippines since World War II has confirmed the story was a hoax, a media report said Wednesday.

The unidentified 58-year-old Japanese man, a trader who first reported the stragglers' existence, told the Yomiuri newspaper he had met the two supposed soldiers in the mountains of Mindanao and found they were not Japanese.

Neither of the men could answer when asked where they were born and to which military unit they belonged, the mediator was quoted as saying by Yomiuri.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila, however, said its government had not dismissed the story entirely.

"We will continue to find out what this is all about," said embassy spokesperson Shuhei Ogawa.

According to Yomiuri, after the Japanese trader's Filipino staff told him about the stragglers, he spent $46,000 paying local residents for information in hopes of tracking them down.

The story of the two soldiers, who were reportedly separated from their unit six decades ago and were afraid to return to their country for fear of being court-martialed, broke as Japanese veterans marked the 60th anniversary of the war's end.

Japan withdrew its diplomats from General Santos City in Mindanao on Monday after four days of unsuccessfully trying to verify reports about the stragglers.

Meanwhile, a hotel employee was commended for returning a wallet left by a Japanese journalist who had joined the media vigil for the stragglers.

Loger Ramirez, a utility worker at East Asia Royale Hotel in General Santos, turned the wallet over to management. It contained P50,000, HK$500 and 50,000 Indonesian rupiah.

The wallet belonged to Masanuri Kobayashi of the Tokyo Broadcasting System. It was returned to TBS director Manako Sirahashi, who was still at the hotel when the wallet was found. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP*

Palawan tackles malaria after reporter infected

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Palawan official said anti-malaria measures were in place in the province, as local executives lamented the fate of Reyster Langit, son of veteran broadcaster Rey Langit, who is in critical condition in a US hospital after contracting malaria while doing a special report on a tribe in Rizal town.

Langit's cameraman, Arnold Danare, 28, who was also bitten by a malaria-carrying mosquito, died Tuesday at the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.

Langit and Danare were in Rizal in the second week of May to film the Tau't Bato tribe when they were bitten by malaria-carrying mosquitos known as anopheles.

They were with dwIZ radio stringer Jesus Christian Macadaeg who also died after their trek.

Macadaeg, however, died of multiple organ failure due to septicemia or blood poisoning caused by a virus, according to doctors at the Palawan Adventist Hospital where he was confined.

This was not the first time Langit came to Palawan. He had been coming to the province to do features for his father's television program.

In a statement, provincial information officer Rolando Bonoan Jr. said "we cannot deny the fact that malaria is still prevalent in Palawan."

Bonoan attributed this to the thick forests and the numerous rivers and lakes that are breeding grounds for anopheles.

He said the provincial government had been exerting efforts to control malaria. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Duque gets rude welcome at DOH

NEW HEALTH Secretary Francisco Duque III received a rude welcome on his first day in office yesterday.

About 100 members of the militant Migrante International and the Health Alliance for Democracy picketed the rites just as outgoing Secretary Manuel Dayrit was formally turning over the Department of Health to Duque.

Protesters said Duque had no business heading the DOH because of his role in the transfer of P530 million in overseas Filipino workers' funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

Maita Santiago, Migrante secretary general, claimed the fund transfer was intended to finance the distribution of PhilHealth cards bearing Ms Arroyo's picture, a "clear act of electioneering."

Duque, former president of the government-owned PhilHealth, had explained that the P530-million fund from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration was in fact transferred to PhilHealth only in March 1, 2005, or almost a year after the elections.

Santiago said her group would block Duque's confirmation at the Commission on Appointments.

Duque seemed unfazed by the lingering criticism that his appointment was a political payback. He said he was "overwhelmed" by the warm welcome he got from health employees. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines 1554
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
**CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL
VACATION CLUB, INC.**
(Registrant)
Registration of Securities

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on March 31, 2005, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL VACATION CLUB, INC. for the registration of its One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty (1,560) Membership Certificates, divided into Nine Hundred Thirty Six (936) Full Share Ownership Certificates and Six Hundred Twenty Four (624) Half Share Ownership Certificates at a price range of Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P325,000.00) to Seven Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos (P775,000.00) each.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
George S. Go	President and CEO
Terry L. Go	Director/Treasurer
Evelyn Go	Director/Financial Officer
Benjamin Y. Sison	Director/Comptroller
Antonio C. Villareal	Director/Principal Operating Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business, hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - June 2 & 3, 2005)

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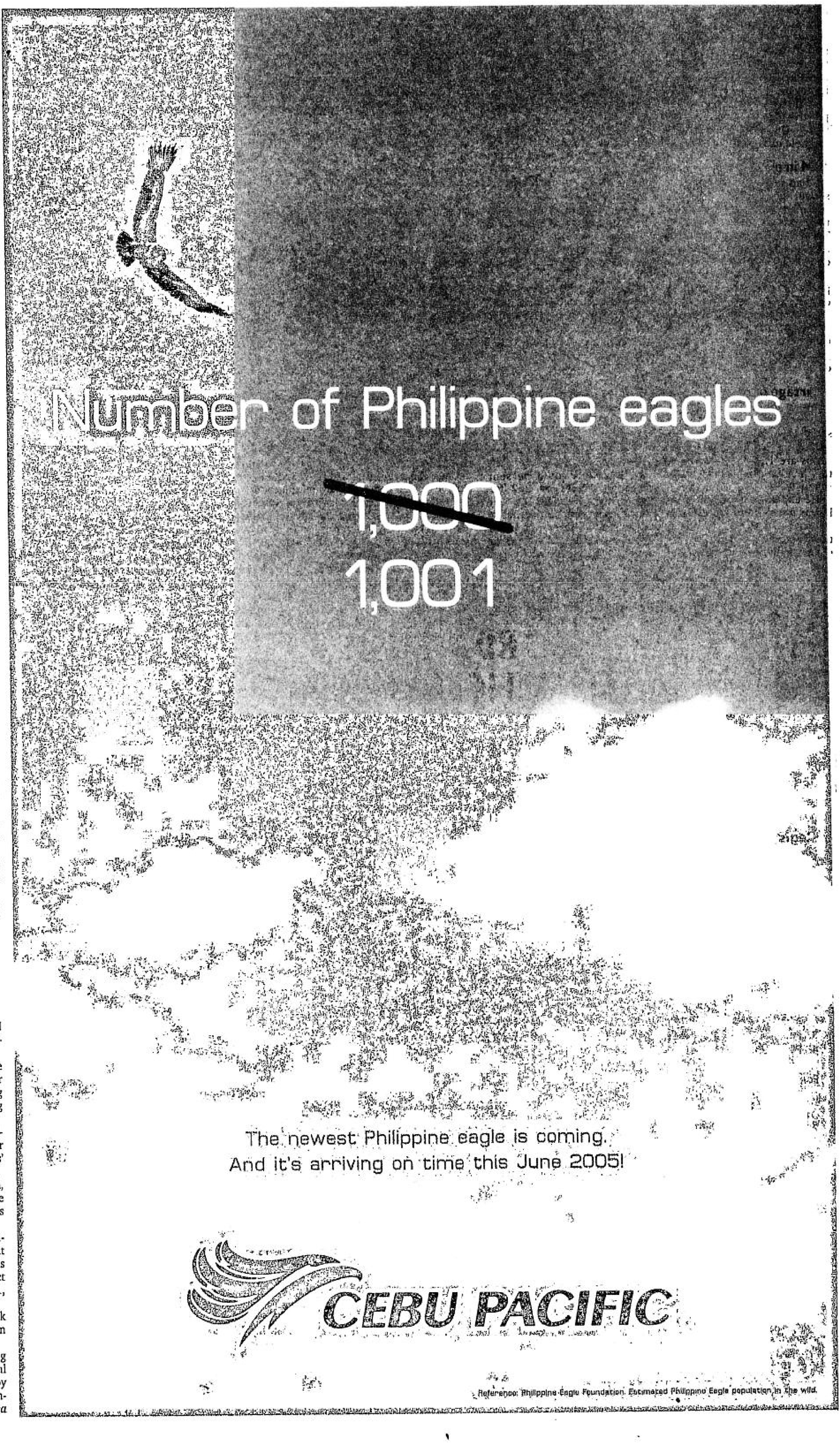

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Lomibao admits PNP can't stop 'jueteng'

From page A1

But he arrived late, did not ask questions, and left before the hearing was adjourned.

He had earlier canceled a scheduled trip to the United States, saying he owed it to his family and his constituents to clear his name.

"I'm just here for two things—to participate in this hearing in aid of legislation and ... to prove that I didn't go abroad. I still hope to answer the allegations against me," the neophyte lawmaker said in an interview.

"I attended this committee hearing to give the impression that I am not hiding," he said, adding that he wanted the courts and other "proper" bodies to resolve the accusations against the First Family.

"I guess we should get to the bottom of this because if we do not clear [things] officially through a competent court or agency, these insinuations, these baseless accusations, will persist as long as my mother is President," he said.

'Mayor knows a lot'

Testifying on Monday at the Senate inquiry into jueteng, witness Wilfredo Mayor said Congressman Arroyo received P600,000 monthly from operators of what is known as the poor man's lotto.

"I do not need to come face to face with Mr. Mayor to clear my reputation. It is important that the people know that I am not avoiding the committee hearing on jueteng," the lawmaker said yesterday.

But if given the chance, he would like to ask Mayor questions so that he "can be enlightened also," he said.

"You know, Mr. Mayor, concerning his know-how on jueteng, I think he's quite relevant; he knows a lot. If you talk about his knowledge in the industry of jueteng, he knows a lot and we might gain something," Arroyo said, adding:

"The only [problem] is, he has no evidence that the money reached the supposed people. He has no direct evidence to back the claims."

Arroyo said he did not pose questions to the resource persons during the hearing, including Lomibao and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, because other lawmakers had already raised the points he wanted to make.

"You don't have to speak in order to participate, since so many [other] congressmen are more knowledgeable. As long as you listen intently, and take notes, that is participation enough," he said.

"And my head aches," he said. "My glasses must have the wrong grade. Anyway, I have listened to so many substantial inputs from our resource speakers through the questions of our veteran legislators. I feel that I have no more inputs to share. No one has advised me to keep quiet. If I am keeping quiet, I wouldn't talk to the media."

12 hours a day

Lomibao said that in a typical town, the average strength of the local police force was 40 officers.

"Of these, three would be commissioned officers—inspector, captain—and more likely assigned supervisory or administrative duties," he said.

"Of the 37 remaining, five would be ineffective as they would either be on vacation leave or simply absent. This would leave 32 policemen on duty. On any given day, the 32 are divided into two shifts—meaning 12 hours per shift."

While policemen are supposed to render eight hours of duty a day as civil service employees, they are actually on a 12-hour tour of duty, he said.

Lomibao said that of the 16 on the shift, several would still not be performing normal duties—the desk officer, duty investigator, administrative clerk, or jail officer, if there was a detainee.

"That leaves 12 as the actual number of policemen who can be deployed to conduct operations," he said.

Not the focus

And to launch a successful raid on any illegal gambling den, including making arrests, 12 policemen are "barely enough," he said.

In another startling revelation, Lomibao said jueteng was not really the central focus of the PNP's campaign against illegal gambling.

"It's just one of the campaigns [because we still have to go after] illegal drugs, illegal logging, illegal fishing," he said.

Villafuerte said the function of the committee was to determine what was "right" and "effective" in RA 9287 so that it could recommend adequate "reformatory legislation."

In a press conference earlier in the day, Lomibao declared that the PNP was validating "on a day-to-day basis" reports by field commanders that their areas were already "jueteng-free."

"So we thank those who report [that there is still jueteng] ... Rest assured that we are verifying it through the anti-illegal gambling task force," he said.

By sending the PNP text messages rejecting or affirming the claims of field commanders, local residents have provided a good feedback system, Lomibao said.

Higher, not lower

Villafuerte asked Governor Padaca why national officials and not barangay chairs and local executives were being dragged into the jueteng scandal.

But Padaca said the proliferation of jueteng should not be blamed on local officials who had no control over the PNP or other provincial officials.

"We should not go lower, but higher," she said, adding:

"I have done my part to stop it. I did, but I failed."

She recounted to the committee how she had prodded the Isabela police to stop jueteng, and how they would always tell her that 80 percent of the operational funds were coming from mayors.

"I can't get the cooperation of the mayors. The PNP tried, but can't go all-out," she said.

Padaca had earlier said that of the 35 towns and one city in her province, only four coastal towns could not be reached by jueteng operators because of sheer inaccessibility.

Lomibao agreed with Villafuerte's statement that to be immune from prosecution, "a witness must provide vital information adequate for prosecution."

The lawmaker, whose son, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymond Villafuerte, was earlier linked to jueteng, said the information should not be hearsay. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

No reason for Pineda to face probe, says Lapid

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE will resume its joint hearing on the "jueteng" controversy on Monday, but Pampanga gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda has yet to be invited.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, chair of the Senate committee on games, which is conducting a joint investigation with the committee on public order, said there was no reason to invite Pineda because he was not implicated during the first hearing last Monday.

Pineda, however, was mentioned by confessed jueteng operator Wilfredo "Boy Bicol" Mayor at the Monday hearing as being one of the biggest jueteng lords in the country and among Mayor's competitors.

In a letter to the two committees, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked that Pineda and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez be invited to next Monday's hearing along with the bagmen identified by Mayor.

Sanchez to Japan

Pimentel asked that Sanchez be invited at once because the governor was reportedly making a trip to Japan.

But Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, whose office approves the foreign trips of local officials, said he had told Sanchez to appear at the Senate.

"I had my office communicate with Sanchez that he should make himself available for any and all hearings, so he'll make himself available. He has a scheduled trip, but we informed him that the trip should not get in the way of his attending the hearing," Reyes said after his confirmation hearing at the Senate.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, president of the Liberal Party of which Sanchez is a member, said the governor should explain allegations that he was a jueteng lord.

Drilon said that Sanchez joined the LP at the height of the 2004 election campaign, and that the party had no information then of his alleged jueteng activities.

"We will not be protecting anybody here regardless of his party affiliation," Drilon said.

Mikey

Lapid said the four bagmen under the protection of Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz would be allowed to testify on Monday.

He said two of the alleged bagmen of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo—Arturo Naguit and Rene Maglangque—were asked to come to the hearing.

Drilon said that Congressman Arroyo and the three Albay congressmen tagged by Mayor as being on the take should be invited to the Senate if they were willing to appear.

"If I were Mikey, I will voluntarily come here because he can do that without being invited. But maybe we can invite him for the next hearing," Lapid said.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin have effectively barred Arroyo from testifying at the Senate.

Nograles and Salapuddin said they were not protecting President Macapagal-Arroyo's son from an inquisition at the Senate. But they said inviting Arroyo to testify would not be in accordance with the interparliamentary courtesy between co-equal branches of Congress.

They also said Arroyo could not be called to testify at the Senate because any accusation against him should be lodged in the House. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Cooperate in probe, bishop urges GMA

From page A1

if he's involved in the jueteng circle, that's for sure," he told the INQUIRER. "But that doesn't mean they're not capable of telling the truth."

Mayor, 50, a former barangay chair, was one of at least eight purported jueteng lords and collectors who had sought the bishop's help in unmasking jueteng protectors and beneficiaries.

The archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan has been in the forefront of the campaign against the illegal numbers game, which he said had grown to a P13-billion-a-year industry under the Arroyo administration.

Resumption of hearing

Cruz has said at least four more witnesses—all jueteng "bagmen" who allegedly had handed over gambling payola to some of the people mentioned by Mayor in Monday's hearing—are to appear at the resumption of the inquiry on Monday.

Cruz said more witnesses were willing to testify on the jueteng menace. But he said they were afraid Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez would make good his threat to slap charges against jueteng whistle-blowers.

The prelate said that when Ms Arroyo was vice president, he had asked her to help rid the country of jueteng on three occasions when she visited his diocese between 1998 and 2001. "She told me yes, but it is still here."

He said the President and her supporters, instead of denouncing the Senate inquiry as a plot orchestrated by the opposition to undermine her government, should "cooperate and help the truth come out."

"How could I be a destabilizer?" he asked. "I've been calling on the government to stamp out jueteng for four years now."

No coaching

Cruz denied Malacañang suggestions that Mayor had been coached into linking Representative Arroyo and other high-profile people to the underground lottery.

He said he hardly asked Mayor about his testimony in the two weeks he was with him before his Senate appearance. "He answered without any lawyer. He answered every question of the senators ... And there was no contradiction in all his answers."

Deposed President Joseph Estrada slammed Ms Arroyo for accusing the opposition of orchestrating the Senate inquiry. "Ms Arroyo has this penchant of seeing ghosts of the opposition where none exist," Estrada said through his spokesperson, former Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Mayor, a confessed former gambling lord in Albay, Pangasinan, Benguet and Baguio City, told the senators that he used to set aside millions of pesos in monthly payola for governors, congressmen, mayors, law enforcers and media people.

In addition to the libel charges filed yesterday against Mayor, the INQUIRER has learned that government agencies had begun a background check on the Senate witness.

A high Malacañang official, who requested anonymity, described Mayor as a man with a checkered background, saying he had been convicted of estafa while still a contractor and had been a compulsive gambler who bet heavily on cockfights and in casinos.

Demolition job

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said all the unsavory details about Mayor were part of an attempt to demolish his credibility.

Lacson said he received information yesterday that the National Bureau of Investigation had picked up four people in Albay who would be "used to destroy Mayor" and others implicating the First Family in the scandal.

Lacson said Justice Secretary Gonzalez was reported as having said that Mayor's real name was Montemayor.

"He thought Mayor would not use his real name. He was overeager to destroy his credibility by starting with that," the senator said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on Gonzalez to resign as head of the government task force on jueteng, saying he had already prejudged witnesses.

"How can these witnesses expect a fair trial from the Department of Justice when the boss himself said they can be charged in court? He does not have the cold impartiality of a judge," Drilon said.

However, Gonzalez said he was simply responding to a question from reporters on what the liabilities of a whistle-blower were when he said witnesses were subject to perjury or libel charges. "I never gave a threat but a statement of fact," he said. *With reports from Nelson F. Flores, Nikko Dizon and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Golez lists 70 'jueteng' lords

PARAÑAQUE Rep. Roilo Golez revealed the names of nearly 70 suspected "jueteng" operators in Luzon at the House hearing yesterday.

Golez said he had gathered the names, which included Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda of Pampanga and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez—from his own investigation.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao confirmed that 13 of the names were also included on the PNP watch list of suspected jueteng operators and financiers.

The House committee on public order and security decided to summon the 13 persons to its next hearing. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Solon's 'bagman' ...

From page A1

the lawmaker asks that he be removed or higher authorities pull him out, according to Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, head of the Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO).

For now, Doromal does not see any reason to replace SPO1 Llasos, who on Monday was named by ex-"jueteng" operator Wilfredo Mayor as the recipient, in Imperial's behalf, of a monthly payoff of P300,000.

But his surname was initially reported as Yasos. The INQUIRER subsequently tried to dig up information about him through a computer search by the PNP Directorate for Personnel and Records Management but failed because of the misspelling.

Imperial has since denied Mayor's allegation.

"Our concern is the security of the congressman. The accusations [against Llasos] are not our concern," Doromal said yesterday. "Unless we are directed to relieve him, or the congressman asks for his removal, [he stays]."

Doromal also said: "As of now, these [are] just allegations. We can't just pull him out [on that basis]."

PSPO records showed that Llasos, a former Constabulary officer, and another policeman were Imperial's guards. Like other cops assigned to secure VIPs, they submit a monthly report to Camp Crame detailing their activities of the past 30 days.

The PSPO has about 1,600 personnel. More than half of them are in the field, guarding politicians, businessmen and private citizens.

Sandigan orders detention of Garcia at Camp Crame

From page A1

shortly after the Sandiganbayan ordered his transfer and allowed his wife and three sons to post bail in connection with the plunder case filed against the family by the government.

Garcia arrived at Camp Crame at 5:30 p.m. and was bused straight to the Pacer building, where he was given a medical examination.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta said Garcia would stay at the PNP custodial center for the rest of his trial.

In ordering Garcia's transfer, Justice Edilberto Sandoval, presiding justice of the antigraft court's second division, cited civilian supremacy and the security risks involved.

He said Garcia should be detained at Camp Crame because he was no longer a military officer.

Earlier yesterday, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said the custodial center at Camp Crame would be ready for Garcia if the Sandiganbayan decided to send him there.

"That facility is well secured," Lomibao said.

Security nightmare

The Sandiganbayan decision solved a potential problem for Supt. Ignacio Panti, warden of the Quezon City Jail on Edsa and Kamuning Road.

Commenting yesterday on reports that the court was considering detaining Garcia at the jail, Panti said it was not ready for the likes of the retired general.

He said he would move to have Garcia transferred elsewhere if the latter landed in his custody.

"In my opinion, [Garcia] would be a security nightmare. We have insufficient personnel for a high-profile case like his," the warden said in a phone interview.

He pointed out that the Quezon City Jail had only 37 guards to serve as escorts for inmates undergoing trial, and that it was too far from the Sandiganbayan on Commonwealth Avenue.

Besides, the city jail is cramped enough as it is, the warden said. At present, 3,485 inmates are packed in the jail that ideally should hold only about 900, he said.

With the Sandiganbayan order for his arrest on Tuesday, Garcia was transferred to a court cell from the compound of the Intelligence Service of the AFP at Camp Aguinaldo, where he had been held since October 2004. No bail was recommended.

Retired Makati Judge Jose Bautista, Garcia's lawyer, had opposed his removal from military custody for medical reasons and alleged threats to his life, to no avail.

Only as accessories

The Sandiganbayan said on Tuesday that it had found sufficient evidence to hold Garcia liable for amassing ill-gotten wealth amounting to P303.2 million.

Yesterday, Garcia's wife Clarita and their sons—Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark—were allowed to post bail because they would be tried only as accessories to the crime of plunder filed against the retired general.

Sandoval said the evidence presented by the prosecution panel had fallen short of the required quantum of evidence to make Clarita and their sons liable as principals in the case.

According to Sandoval, the evidence shows that Clarita and the sons benefited from the supposed plunder only after the act was committed.

He said the court would issue a warrant of arrest for Clarita and the sons only if the prosecution panel agreed to charge them as accessories.

The decision was unanimously approved by the other members of the second division, Justices Francisco Villaruz and Rodolfo Ponferrada.

Possession and acquisition

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio argued that Garcia's wife and children should be charged as co-principals because they were in possession of illegally acquired wealth and were parties to its disposition.

He cited as evidence Clarita's handwritten testimony admitting receipt of "gratitude" and bribe money from people transacting business with the military.

But Ponferrada noted that "possession and acquisition are two different things."

Nevertheless, the court gave Villa-Ignacio 10 days to submit his motion for reconsideration.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo expressed dismay over the decision of the court not to try Clarita and the sons as co-principals in the case.

He said the evidence was sufficient to prove that Clarita had conspired with her husband in plundering government coffers.

Escaped prisoners

A number of men accused of the worst kinds of crimes have managed to escape from Camp Crame, where Garcia is now being held.

In 2002, Faizal Marohombsar, leader of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, slipped past his guards, along with two other kidnapping suspects. He was killed weeks later in an alleged shootout with police in Cavite.

The other escapees included:

- Suspected drug lord Henry Tan, who sneaked out on Sept 29, 2002, after sawing through the iron grills of his cell.
- Suspected terrorists Fathur Roman Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukin Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, who walked out of the Intelligence Group compound on July 14, 2003. Al-Ghozi was later killed in an alleged encounter in Mindanao.
- Allan Balagnatan, a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf was gunned down on Dec. 2 2004, inside the maximum security compound after he allegedly grabbed the gun of PO1 Rolando Nolasco.
- Abu Sayyaf leaders Juvenal Bruno and Khadaffy Janjalani were also briefly detained at Camp Crame. They escaped in 1995. With a report from DJ Yap

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Wind blows three ways in Albay cave

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Camalig, Albay

HOME to fossilized human skeletons and several prehistoric artifacts, the Hoyop-hoyopan Cave in Camalig, Albay has been a silent witness to the development of civilization in this part of the country.

Its name, derived from the Bicol word *"hoyop,"* meaning blow of the wind, reflects the cave's structure.

The cave has three openings through which the wind enters its caverns. The southeast door faces Sorsogon province; the southwest one faces the China Sea, while the northeast opening faces Mayon Volcano. Thus, the people have regarded the cave as *"hoyop-hoyopan,"* a place where the wind continuously blows.

According to reading materials prepared by the Camalig parish, the site was once under water, but geological changes over the centuries caused it to rise, starting thousands of years ago.

Artifacts dug up from the cave show that dwellers from Java and other parts of Asia used it as burial ground. Some of the artifacts are displayed at the town church.

In 1973, Fr. Cantius Kobak, an American Franciscan missionary, was said to found a prehistoric burial jar containing human skeletons. A German archaelogist, Dr. Wilhelm Solheim II, classified the artifacts found inside the cave.

The pottery belonged to the Kalanay Complex, a pattern that is said to have existed during the Iron Age in the Philippines (200 BC to 900 AD).

Among the artifacts found in the burial jar of the early Iron Age man were pottery items of varying sizes and designs, clay figurines, shell bracelets, colorful shell beads, and shell and iron implements.

In recent history, the cave served as quarters of Katipunan revolutionaries. During the Second World War, guerrillas used it as hideout.

Ownership

The cave covers more than seven hectares and has "three floors," said Pinky Nieva, who is among the claimants of one of the openings.

CEILING and floor meet in rock formations inside the Hoyop-hoyopan Cave in Camalig town in Albay.
JA MARTI ESCANDOR/CONTRIBUTOR

Two other families, the Nuylans and the Guerreros, claim ownership of the other openings. Along with the Nievas, they share in the maintenance and operation of the tourist attraction, as well as the earnings derived from it.

The second and third floors of the Hoyop-hoyopan Cave, which have high domes, are easily accessible. The first floor, however, can be reached only after 11 hours of crawling. This portion already belongs to the town of Guinobatan, according to a local guide.

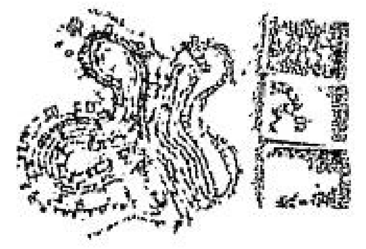
Crystal quarts are imbedded in the rock formations inside the cave. It is said that water sweating from the walls or dropping down stalactites contained calcium sulfate.

But signs of permanent destruction of the natural environment are everywhere.

Concrete structures that facilitate exploration, such as pathways, benches and platforms, have been built inside the cave, obliterating several pieces of natural and human history.

AN ANCIENT burial jar contained these smaller vessels of varying sizes and designs.
PHOTOS BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

FIGURINES representing deities were also found at the burial site.



COLORFUL beads are among the artifacts found in 1973.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Dutch likely to reject EU charter

THE HAGUE—Just three days after France's roaring "non" sent shock waves through the European Union, the block's draft constitution appears set for rejection by another founding member as the Dutch on Wednesday head for the polls in their first referendum in over 200 years.

Polling stations were set to stay open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the first estimates of the result expected almost immediately after polls close.

Some 11.6 million Dutch citizens over 18 years of age are eligible to vote in the referendum, and the latest opinion polls were predicting a large turnout and an even greater win for the "no" side than in France, where opponents to the constitution took 54.87 percent of the vote.

On Tuesday, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende made a last-ditch appeal to voters to support the constitution.

"If you want to move the economy forward you must vote 'yes,'" he said in a television interview.

"I believe a 'no' vote is not in the interest of the Netherlands nor in the interest of Europe."

Despite a long day of desperate campaigning by the "yes" camp, polls carried out Tuesday indicated that 60 percent of Dutch voters would voice their opposition to the constitution.

Unlike the French referendum on Sunday, the Dutch referendum is not binding, but the parliament has promised to follow the will of the people when the treaty comes up for parliamentary ratification, provided turnout exceeds 30 percent.

Balkenende has, despite the apparently inevitable outcome, continued to urge voters to support the treaty, which sets the framework for closer integration of an enlarged EU, requesting that they not be influenced by the French results.

"France cannot tell us what to do," Balkenende said.

But Balkenende's center-right coalition government, which currently only enjoys a 19 percent approval rating, instills little confidence in the Netherlands, as do the "technocrats in Brussels."

While heads have already begun to roll in France over what was a catastrophic referendum result for the government, observers in the Netherlands insist that there will be no political fallout at home if the people vote "no."

This is largely due to the fact that it was the Dutch parliament that pushed for the referendum against the wishes of the government, which instead wanted parliament—over 80 percent of which has come out in favor of the treaty—to vote on the issue.

After months of indifference to the constitution, both in the media and in the political debate, the campaign heated up less than three weeks ago when polls revealed that the "no" camp was clearly in the lead.

Surveys show that the Dutch fear that a rapidly expanding EU could swallow up their tiny nation, and that the growing centralization of power in Brussels could eventually force the country to revise its liberal laws on cannabis, same-sex marriages and euthanasia, which are widely seen as part of its national identity.

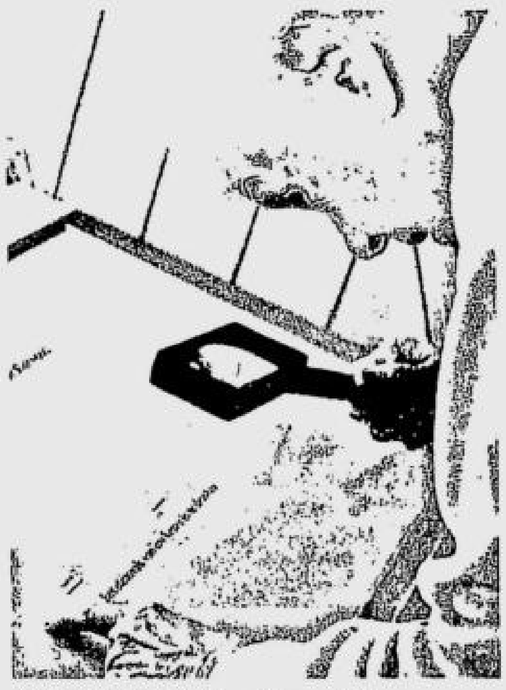
Also Dutch voters don't seem to trust their national politicians to protect their interests. This became especially clear after "proof" of political crookedness came to light at the beginning of the campaign when the head of the central bank admitted that the country's former currency, the guilder, had been devalued just before the switch to the euro.

This backed up long-held consumer charges that the move to the European common currency had led to massive price hikes.

Many voters also voice frustration over the fact that the Netherlands is the largest net contributor to the EU budget.

Anti-immigrant sentiments and, at least in part, worries that the constitution could pave the way for Turkey to enter the Union are other explanations for the strong "no" in the Netherlands.

The disparate parties campaigning for a "no" range from right-wing populists to the far-left and includes two small Christian parties. *AFP*



AN ELDERLY Dutch casts her vote in a referendum on the EU Constitution in Capelle aan den Ijssel, the Netherlands, June 1. REUTERS

20 killed in Afghan mosque bombing

KANDAHAR—A suicide bomb attack on the funeral of a leading cleric killed by suspected Taliban militants left at least 20 people dead in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Wednesday including one of the country's top policemen, officials and doctors said.

Around 40 people were wounded when the blast ripped through a mosque in the center of the city, the birthplace of the hardline Islamic Taliban regime that was ousted by US-led forces three and a half years ago.

The attack was the worst in Afghanistan this year and one of the most serious since the fall of the Taliban, which gave shelter and support to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

It came as prayers were given for Maulvi Abdullah Fayyaz, a close supporter of US-backed President Hamid Karzai, who was gunned down on Sunday after recently speaking out against fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

"We have received 40 wounded and 20 dead bodies in the hospital," Dr. Naseer Ahmed Niazi, director of Kanadar's Mirwais hospital, said.

Afghan interior ministry spokesperson Lutfullah Mashal said that 16 people including the police chief of the capital Kabul, Gen. Akram Khakraizwall, were killed. The bomber also died.

"It was a suicide attack by the enemies of Afghanistan and Islam. The investigation into the case has started," added Mashal, who had said earlier that more than two dozen people were killed.

A man in a police uniform approached the police chief and bent over pretending to prepare Khakraizwall's shoes, which he had taken off to enter the mosque in line with tradition, said survivor Mohammad Afzal, 35. *AFP*

AFGHAN security personnel inspect the damage caused by a suicide bomb attack at a mosque in Kandahar June 1. AFP

Jury to start deliberations on Jacko's case by Friday

SANTA MARIA, Calif.—The jury could begin deliberating in the Michael Jackson child molestation trial by the end of the week, a judge said on Tuesday, following instructions on the law and closing arguments by attorneys for both sides.

Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville, who spent the day working on jury instructions with prosecutors and defense lawyers with jurors and Jackson absent, said he wanted to hand the case over to the eight-woman, four-man panel by Friday afternoon.

"I want to get the case out late Friday," Melville told attorneys for both sides after pushing back closing statements by one day.

Following that timeline the jury could begin deliberations late on Friday or Monday morning. Jurors were expected to work behind closed doors for about six hours a day until they either reach verdicts or announce a deadlock.

The jury will be asked to weigh a Santa Barbara County Grand jury indictment that charges Jackson with four counts of molesting a 13-year-old boy, four counts of plying the young cancer patient with alcohol in order to abuse him, one count of conspiracy and one count of attempted molestation.

The 46-year-old entertainer, who has pleaded innocent, faces more than two decades in prison if convicted on all 10 counts, which stem from the boy's extended visit to Neverland Valley Ranch in February and March of 2003.

Melville ruled on Tuesday that in considering the four alcohol counts against Jackson, the jury could determine that the singer gave his young accuser alcohol but did not abuse him. Under that scenario they could convict him of a lesser charge.

Legal experts said the move, which is not unusual in California courts, did not affect the remainder of the indictment, and gave prosecutors an advantage as the misdemeanor charge might be easier to prove. *Reuters*

Russia's Khodorkovsky sentenced to 9 years in jail

MOSCOW—Oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, was sentenced to nine years in prison for tax evasion on Tuesday in a trial widely seen as orchestrated by the Kremlin to crush a political rival.

"My sentence has been decided in the Kremlin," an unrepentant Khodorkovsky, 41, said in a statement read to reporters by his lawyer.

The severe sentence—a year short of the maximum demanded by the prosecution—raised eyebrows in Washington and is certain to stoke concerns among investors about the high risk of doing business in President Vladimir Putin's Russia.

The central Moscow court found the billionaire guilty of six of seven charges of fraud and tax evasion in a verdict that took judges 12 days to read at the climax of an 11-month trial.

Platon Lebedev, Khodorkovsky's business associate in the Yukos oil company crushed under the weight of back tax claims, was handed the same sentence. Both plan to appeal.

"Khodorkovsky and Lebedev entered into an organized group with the aim of illegally appropriating other people's property and then selling the assets for their own gain," said chief judge Irina Kolesnikova.

"The court finds (the defense arguments) to be groundless."

A charge of repeated forgery of documents was dropped.

Standing to hear the sentence, Khodorkovsky looked straight ahead and showed no emotion as it was read out. Outside the heavily guarded court, his supporters shouted "Shame!"

The verdict produced a gasp from 's female relatives, one exclaiming: "How could you do that to a person?"

KHODORKOVSKY

Khodorkovsky's mother, Marina, said she thought the outcome was to be expected in a Russia, ruled by Putin, a former agent of the Soviet KGB security service.

"We lost our son on the day when Putin came to power," she told re porters. "We are old people, and we know from our own experience who they are, these KGB people."

After the verdict, the prosecutor general's office said it had found the sentence fair and promised new money-laundering charges against Khodorkovsky coming soon.

Khodorkovsky and Lebedev were both sentenced to prison where inmates live in barracks with relative freedom to move around within the grounds of the jail. But they will stay in their Moscow jail until appeals have been exhausted.

The sentence stirred unease in the West.

US President George W. Bush said in Washington he had already expressed his concerns about the outcome of the Khodorkovsky case directly to Putin.

"As I explained to him, here you're innocent until proven guilty, and it appeared to us—at least people in my administration—that it looked like he had been judged guilty prior to (having) a fair trial," Bush told a news conference.

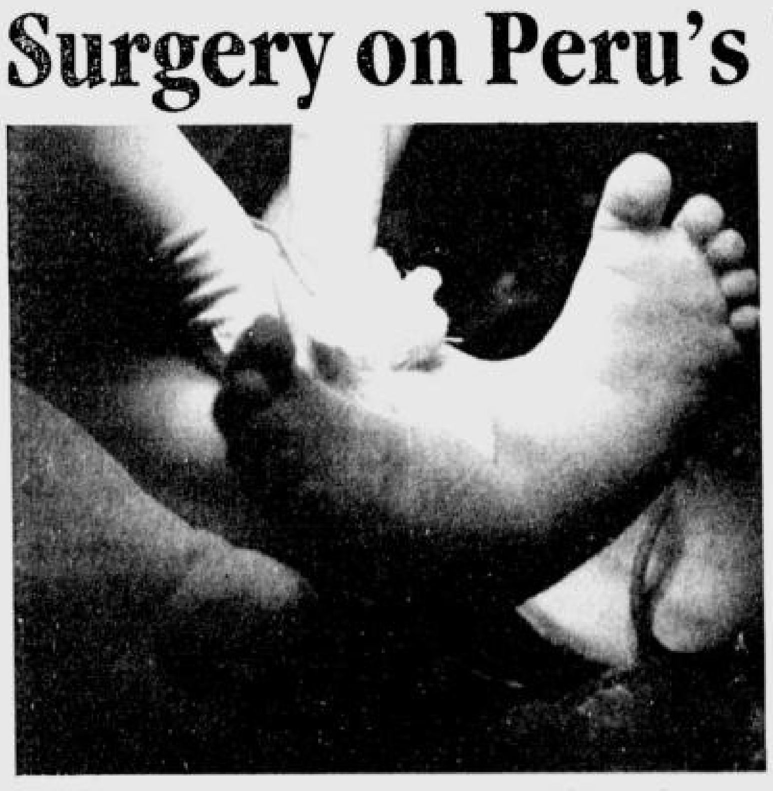
Bush said the United States wanted to see how the appeal will be handled.

Britain's ambassador to Russia, Tony Brenton, warned the outcome of the trial could have a major impact on business and investor confidence in Russia.

But Khodorkovsky's plight is unlikely to elicit support from ordinary Russians.

They mostly view the hugely wealthy, and usually young, oligarchs like Khodorkovsky who emerged from the ruins of the Soviet Union as little more than thieves of state wealth who left them even worse off than under communist rule. *Reuters*

Surgery on Peru's 'mermaid baby' completed



THE FEET of the 13-month-old Peruvian baby girl Milagros Cerron are shown during the operation at a hospital in Lima May 31. REUTERS

LIMA—Four and a half hours after making their first incision, surgeons finished a delicate operation Wednesday on Peru's bright-eyed "little mermaid"—a baby girl born with legs fused from her thighs to her ankles.

The surgery, planned to begin repairing the child's birth defect only up to her knees, exceeded the expectations of the medical team, which was able to fully separate her legs.

"This is the final result that we have come to in this extraordinary surgical intervention," said Dr. Luis Rubio, holding up 13-month-old Milagros Cerron's legs in a V-shape, displaying the line of stitches extending up from her heels to her inner thighs. "We have mobility of the independent knee joints.

National and international reporters assembled on a third floor mezzanine watched television monitors as the surgery began early Wednesday in a small operating room on the first floor.

"This surgical intervention has been a true success," Rubio said.

Hours before the surgery, Milagros, whose name means "miracles" in English, giggled and played on her hospital bed while Dr. Luis Rubio, leader of a team of 11 surgeons performing the operation, looked on.

He said Milagros was in prime condition for the surgery, which was expected to last four to six hours. Rubio said he was "tremendously optimistic" that the operation would be successful.

"Today is the big day awaited by the entire world, by her parents, by her and by us. We have prepared an entire hospital for her," Rubio said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Milagros' father, Ricardo Cerron, 24, who was sitting with reporters watching the monitors, broke into tears as Rubio made the first incision. The baby's mother, Sara Arauco, 19, put her hand to her mouth as the surgery began. A nurse standing behind her chair put her hands on her shoulders.

"We have overcome the first difficulty," Rubio said, referring to a major artery that connected both legs. "We are cutting and the irrigation is perfect on both sides."

Rubio made his remarks live on national television from the operating room as the surgery proceeded.

Milagros was born with a rare congenital defect known as sirenomelia, or "mermaid syndrome," which occurs in one out of every 70,000 births. Her legs are seamlessly fused all the way to her heels.

There are only three known cases of children born with the affliction alive in the world today, according to Rubio. *AP*

Court acquits 4 Thai Muslims in terror plot

BANGKOK—Four Thai Muslims were acquitted Wednesday of belonging to an al-Qaida linked terrorist organization and plotting to bomb the US and other embassies and tourist destinations in Thailand.

The Criminal Court ruled there was insufficient evidence to convict the suspects of belonging to the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah or of planning attacks in the Thai capital and southern Thailand two years ago, said Judge Peng Pengniti.

After the decision was announced, the suspects—who appeared in court handcuffed, shackled in leg irons and wearing brown prison uniforms—knelt and prayed while some of their family members wept. More than 50 of their relatives were in the crowded courtroom.

The suspects were arrested in southern Thailand in June 2003 and accused of plotting to bomb the embassies of the United States, Britain, Israel, Singapore and Australia as well as targets in the tourist hotspots of Pattaya and Phuket.

"There is no evidence to convict the four defendants," said the judge, adding that no explosive materials were found with the suspects.

The accused men—Dr. Waemahadi Wae-dao, school owner Maisuru Haji Abdulloh and his son Muyahid, and a manual laborer, Samarn Wae-kaji—also allegedly discussed plans to kidnap and possibly kill foreign ambassadors in Thailand, according to police testimony.

If convicted, they could have faced a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Prosecutors have 30 days to file an appeal, according to defense lawyer Sittiphong Chantharawiroj. *AP*

Trial of Saddam set to start in two months

BAGHDAD—Saddam Hussein could be on trial within two months, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said Tuesday, but a London lawyer representing the former Iraqi dictator warned several legal steps must be taken first.

Talabani was asked during a videolink press conference on CNN when Saddam's much-awaited trial might begin, and replied: "I hope within two months."

"The Iraqi government is now doing its best to prepare the ground for a court which will be able to decide... about Saddam Hussein's future," he told the channel's World Report Conference.

But his comments drew a quick rebuttal from Giovanni di Stefano, a London-based member of Saddam's legal team, who told the Press Association: "Before any trial can occur there has to be an indictment and a charge."

Stefano is part of a 24-member international legal team hired by Saddam's wife Sajida and their three daughters.

"No matter how hopeful the Iraqi president is, there can be no substance to this until the man is properly charged," the lawyer argued.

Saddam has been held at a high-security prison on a US base outside Baghdad since his arrest in December 2003, and is accused of crimes against humanity.

He appeared before an Iraqi judge in July last year during a preliminary hearing at which he was accused of using chemical weapons against Kurds in the town of Halabja in 1988 and cold-bloodedly crushing a Shiite rebellion in 1991. *AFP*

Pakistan deports al-Qaida suspect

ISLAMABAD—President Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday that a top al-Qaida operative arrested in Pakistan was being handed over to the United States, which regards the country a key ally in the war against terror.

"We are obviously going to deport him. We have extracted all the information and intelligence from him," Musharraf said, referring to al-Qaida's alleged number three Abu Faraj al-Libbi, who was arrested earlier this month.

"I presume that he may have been deported already to the United States," Musharraf told CNN in an interview late on Tuesday, adding that until three days ago al-Libbi was in Pakistan.

Al-Libbi is the alleged mastermind of two attempts on Musharraf's life in December 2003, and a bid to assassinate Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz before he assumed office last year.

Asked why Pakistan was deporting al-Libbi to the United States even though the al-Qaida operative was involved on two assassination attempts on him, Musharraf said there were "bigger issues" involved.

"He did attack me twice, he was the mastermind behind the attack but then there is a lot of other more important issues of his role in al-Qaida and his information and intelligence which needs to be corroborated with all the other intelligence that is available through interrogation of other al-Qaida personalities whom we have apprehended."

"Therefore there are bigger issues involved and finally we will come to his trial later," he said.

Musharraf said that al-Libbi had not given interrogators any clues as to the whereabouts of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. *AFP*

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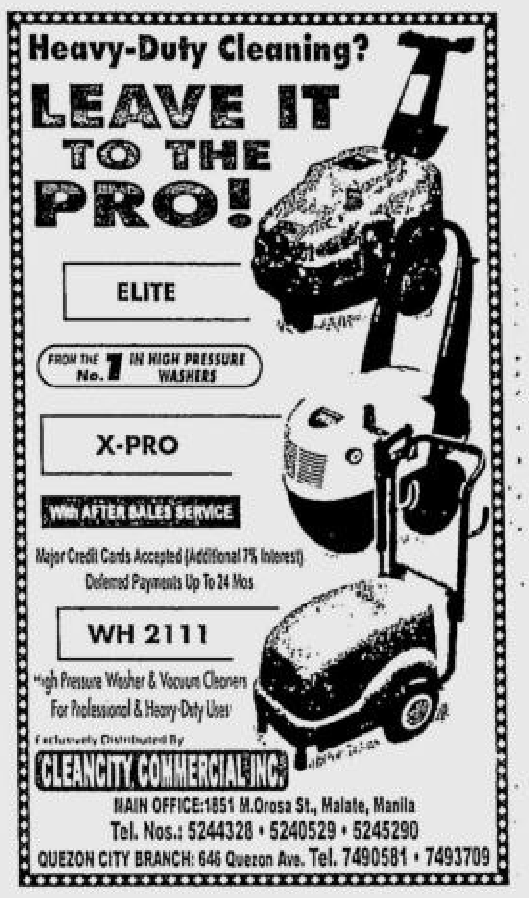
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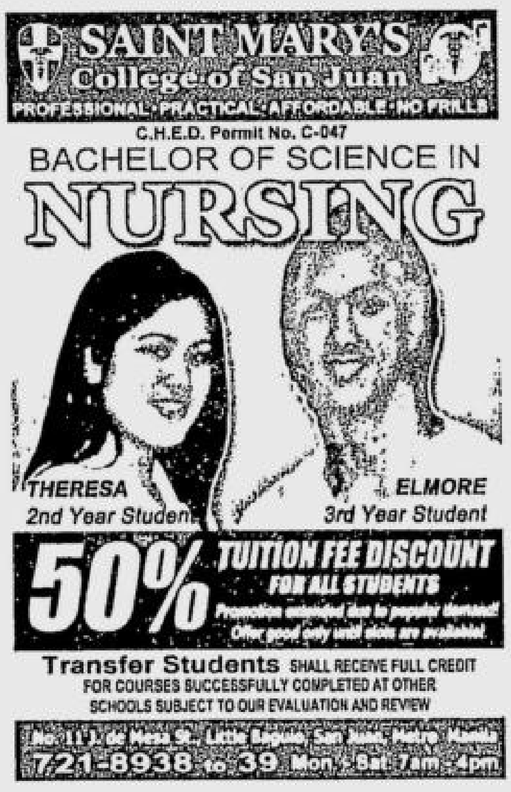
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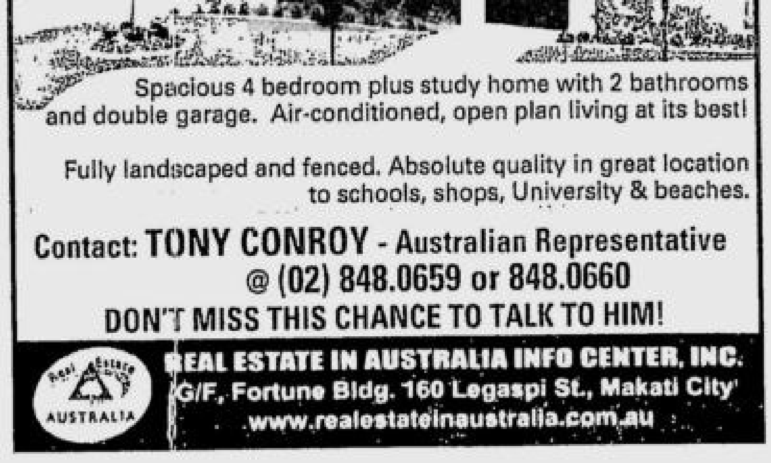
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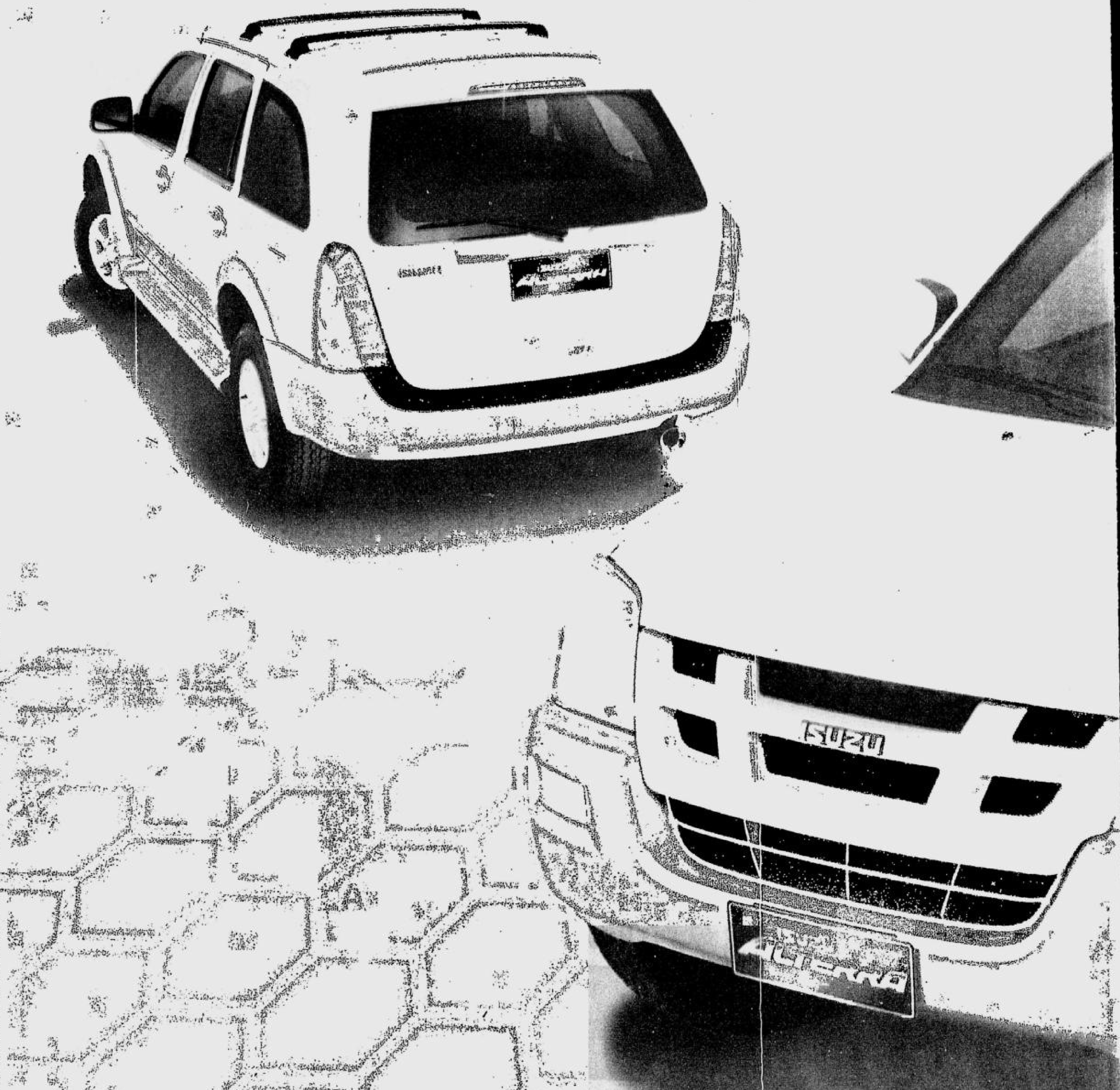

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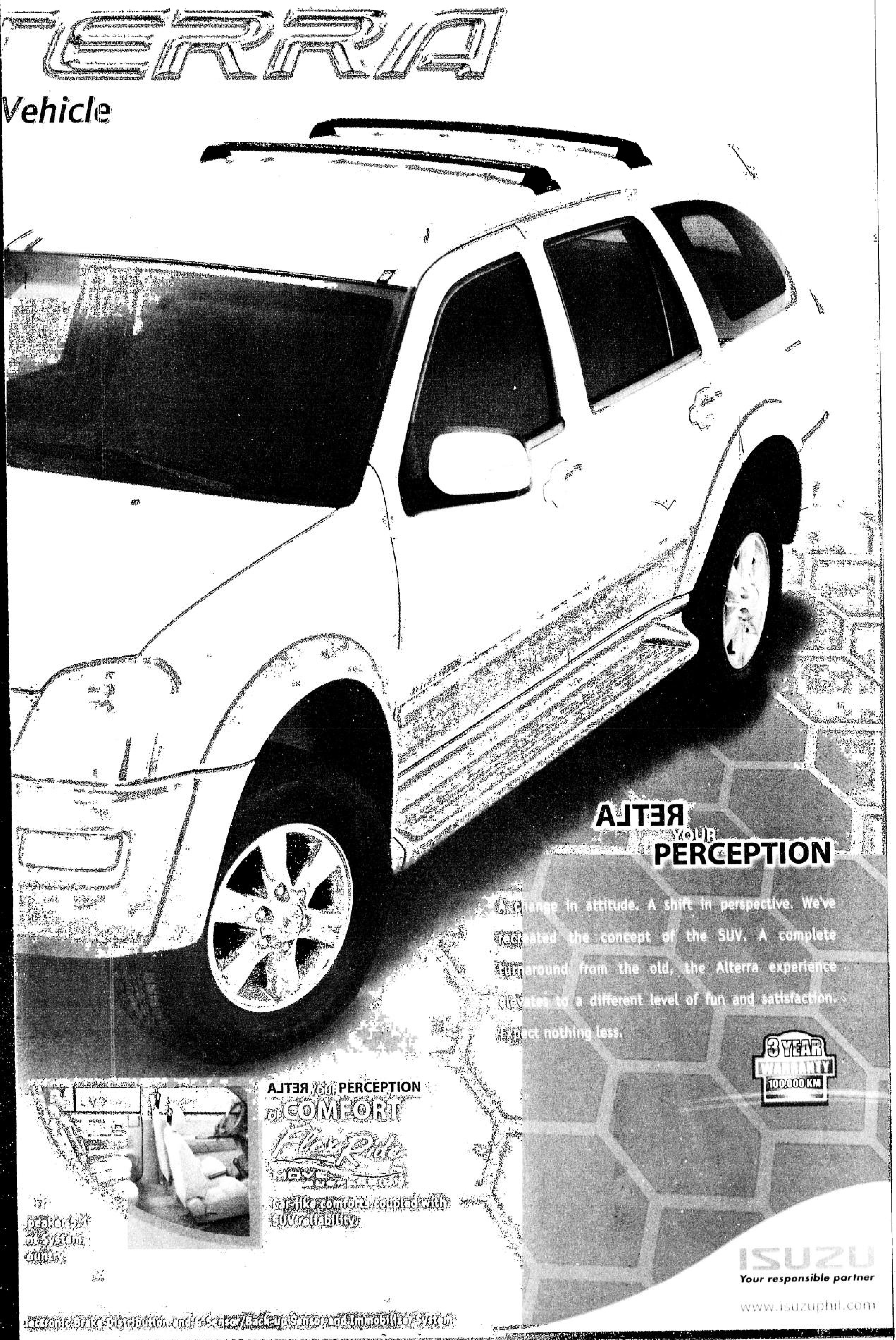

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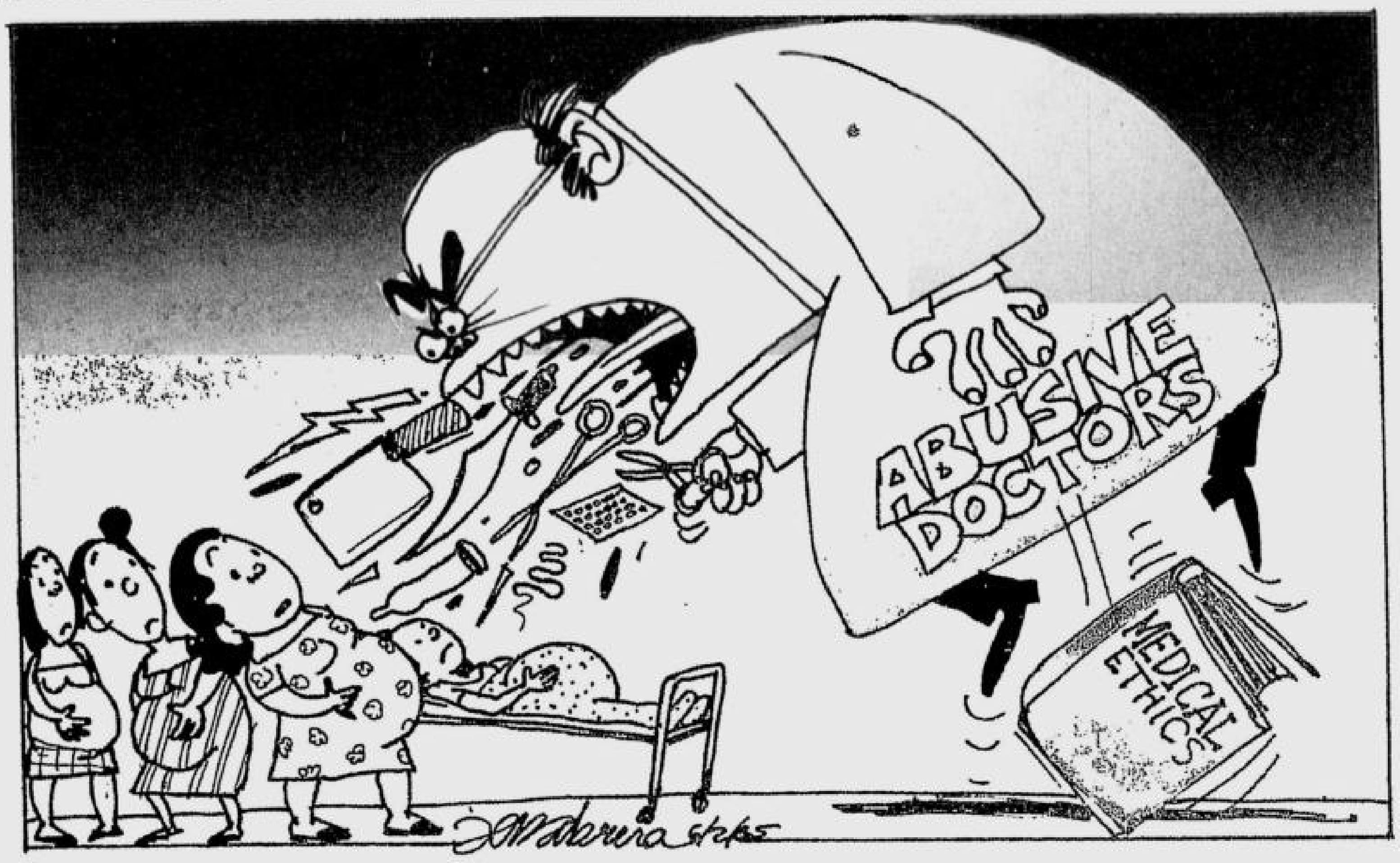


A curious confession

EDITORIAL

WAS he joking or was he crazy? His colleagues in the Pampanga Mayors' League seem to think he was not serious, but Apalit Mayor Tirso Lacanilao to this day insists that he was in his right mind and he meant every word when he admitted that he had accepted payoffs from *jueteng* operators and dared everyone in the association to deny that they did the same thing.

Lacanilao has earned for himself the distinction of being the first public official (and the only one so far) to admit in public that he was on the payroll of illegal gambling operators. He told a local radio station that until the recent crackdown forced them to stop, the people running the illegal numbers game in his town regularly gave him between P150,000 and P200,000 monthly. He justified the practice by saying he gave the money to his constituents who sought his help to pay for their children's tuition or hospitalization, bury their dead, sponsor basketball tournaments and even religious rites, like the Holy Week *pabasa*. He chided other local government executives in Pampanga, who had expressed their support for the renewed drive against *jueteng*, calling them "hypocrites." Who among them could say with a straight face that they had not accepted "advances" from gambling operators to finance their election campaigns, he asked.

In making this public confession, Lacanilao seemed to think he was actually doing local officials a big service. He said he was speaking "in good faith," and added, "I wanted national officials to understand the plight of local executives."

That part about the many requests and demands politicians must satisfy is hardly a secret even to national officials. Every politician has the same complaint. But the problem is not having so many people asking, but too many politicians giving, so that now the government has become one huge welfare agency. This is patronage politics at its worst, and politicians more than their constituents are to blame for practically institutionalizing it.

And Lacanilao should stop complaining about the low pay that mayors and other local executives get. That's the first thing anyone who enters the public service knows, except for the congressmen and senators who can dip liberally into their pork barrel and the fortunate few who get appointed to cushy positions in some well-funded government corporations. Nobody forced Lacanilao or any other official to seek public office, so he should not complain about the low pay, much less use it to justify bribery and other corrupt practices.

Almost as interesting as the distorted reasoning Lacanilao showed in his public confession were the things he revealed about *jueteng* itself. Not least, how big the business has become and how widespread its operations are. If Apalit can be considered as a typical haven of *jueteng* and its mayor was getting P200,000 a month in payoffs, then upwards of P4.5 million monthly must have passed into the hands of Pampanga's 22 mayors. And if the mayors were getting paid off, can the vice mayors, the councilors, the chiefs of police and the barangay officials be far behind? And how about the governor, the vice governor and the board members? How about the congressmen? Each one has an investment to recover and a constituency to take care of, so they must have demanded a piece of the action. The *jueteng* lords of Pampanga must have been running a very lucrative business to be able to buy off so many officials. And Archbishop Oscar Cruz's estimate putting down *jueteng* as a P13-billion industry may be on the low side.

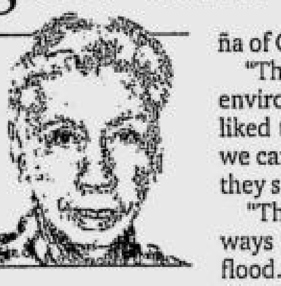
With all the *jueteng* going everywhere in her own backyard (by Lacanilao's account), why did it take so long for President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to it? And now that she has ordered the prosecution of everyone involved in the illegal activity, what is the Department of Justice waiting for?

The Apalit mayor has publicly confessed, not only once but twice through the mass media, that he had accepted payoffs from *jueteng* operators in his town. Right off he seems guilty of dereliction of duty in failing to enforce the anti-gambling law and violations of the anti-graft law for accepting bribes. Isn't that enough to hale him to court?

Instead of looking for the insiders who helped expose the payoffs and threatening them with jail terms, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez should begin his investigation with Lacanilao and expand it to the other local officials he has implicated. Or will that bring the issue too close for the President's comfort?

'Tyranny of the urgent' and Noah

VIEWPOINT



Juan L. Mercado

THE WEATHER bureau says the rains end the El Niño drought," a friend e-mailed. "Floods are a storm or two away. So, what about the Noah Principle?"

"There'll no longer be awards for predicting rain," the principle states in an Asian Development Bank report. "Prizes will go only to those who build the ark [illegible]

The comm[illegible]derscores our tendency to react only to [illegible]anny of the urgent." We dig wells when [illegible]ort people fight at dry taps. Projects to au[illegible]upplies are shelved when the rains fall. [illegible]y're dusting off flood-control plans. Thes[illegible]re set aside when the dry season began.

If Noah lived in the Philippines, how would he handle this treadmill? asked a reader. Slightly embroidered, here's how the Noah Principle, in his view, would probably work:

The Lord spoke to Noah who was reading the banner stories on how the *jueteng* loot is split. Page 2 reported courts deliberating whether P130 million in *jueteng* payola can be crammed into four boxes for an (ousted) president.

"Stow it," erupted the Lord. "In one year, I'll send down so much rain you'll think Leyte, Quezon and Aurora were puddles. Everything will be destroyed when water covers the world."

"Everything?" Noah asked.

"No. Save the righteous, plus a pair of every kind of living creature," the Lord replied. "Therefore, build an ark."

As lightning flashed, Noah found the ark's blueprints at his feet. "Remember," the Lord said before leaving, "bring everything aboard in one year."

A year later, torrents poured down and floodwaters rose. But Noah sat in his front yard, weeping.

"Where's the ark, Noah?" the Lord shouted over the wind.

"I did my best Lord," Noah yelled back. "But there were big problems. First, I needed a mayor's permit. They ignored my question whether Mayor Lito Atienza had a permit to raze the mini-forest in Arroceros. They redrew your blueprint and billed me.

"Building the ark in my front yard would violate zoning ordinances," Noah continued. "So, I queued at the municipal planning office for a permit.

"Didn't you bless this country with lush forests, Lord? So, why couldn't I get any wood? And there's a ban on cutting trees. So, I wangled a permit to cut coco lumber.

"I tried to see Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to convince him the ark would also save Philippine eagles. But he was stuck in the Commission on Appointments, parrying Sen. Jamby Madrigal's broadsides.

"Remember the eagle raised from captivity, Lord? They named it after Vice President Noli de Castro. But 'Kabayan' perched on a high-tension wire and fried. The DENR didn't allow me to catch eagles. So, no eagles.

"The carpenters went on strike. I negotiated with Kilusang Mayo Uno. 'Do you believe in the dictatorship of the proletariat?' they asked.

"'What's that got to do with building an ark,' I replied. No answer. Meanwhile, I have 16 carpenters but no eagles.

"An animal rights group sued us. Why take only two of each kind aboard? they objected. It took time to get the suit dismissed. Courts here are overloaded with policemen who shoot journalists and city mayors, like Tomas Osmeña of Cebu, who blockade national roads.

"The DENR insisted your flood needed an environmental impact assessment. They disliked the idea that they had no jurisdiction. If we can rule on Boracay, why not the universe? they said.

"The Department of Public Works and Highways demanded a map of the proposed new flood. So, I sent them a globe. Now, they want a 'fee.' Why does everyone here ask for a fee?

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) fears the ark will be used by people to flee and avoid paying taxes. Erap's cronies Jaime Dichavez and Atong Ang, they said, didn't leave a forwarding address. But the National Bureau of Investigation and the Intelligence Service of the AFP claim the ark may used by al-Qaida and generals facing graft charges."

"Are they charging us VAT?" the Lord asked. "At 10 percent or 12 percent?"

"I don't know," Noah replied. "The opposition is questioning the law before the Supreme Court, even without Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Now the Senate wants a temporary restraining order against launching the ark, just like the one sought for the still unpublished book, 'The Power and the Glory—The Cult of Manalo.' Since God is flooding the earth, this is a religious event, senators say. This fractures the separation of church and state rule.

"Lord, why didn't you let me build the ark somewhere else?" Noah wailed. "It takes 40 days to register a business here but only two days in Australia or Singapore, the World Bank says."

Then the sun began to show. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up hopefully and asked: "You're not going to destroy the earth, Lord?"

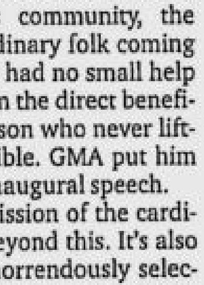
"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government is already doing that."

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Comparisons

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S a perception Archbishop Oscar Cruz may yet fill the shoes of Jaime Cardinal Sin. Both are feisty and outspoken, both are fearless and businesslike, both think nothing of hitting the rich and powerful.

"All I have is the truth," Cruz told our reporter, Christian Esguerra, in an interview, "nothing more, nothing less." That position has thrown him into the spotlight, relegating the hitherto omnipresent and omni-voluble Mike Velarde of El Shaddai to the sidelines.

Well, to begin with, I don't know that Mike Velarde belongs to the picture at all. Frankly, I don't know which he has more of and changes more often, his plaid suits or his principles. He has managed to ingratiate himself with the last few presidents by throwing his support behind them when they looked like the odds-on favorite, however conflicting their beliefs. "*Tiyak yon!*" is his favorite expression, which encapsulates his outlook in politics (oh yes, he is a politician) which is to go for the sure thing. A man after GMA's heart.

But what of Sin and Cruz?

At first blush it seems to be no contest. Cruz himself holds Sin in awe, having known him up close and personal and looked up to him as some sort of father figure, notwithstanding that Sin is only six years his senior. Sin looms larger than life, having walked with princes—one is tempted to say "and paupers," but the paupers are not in evidence—and having helped mount two Edsas, the first by public acclamation, the second by self-proclamation. Sin has been vocal about a host of national issues, lending his voice to various causes.

Cruz, on the other hand, is known only for one thing, which is to have raised the specter of *jueteng* when everyone had gotten blind to it or had gotten too tired to want to see it. Cruz seems to belong to another league. It seems like comparing David and Goliath. Well, maybe it is: David did get the better of Goliath in the end.

Right now, at least, I have a deeper respect for Cruz for one reason: He is more the priest than the politician. Sin is the other way around.

Sin may have many virtues, but he also has one lethal vice. He is the embodiment of the first of the cardinal sins, which is the sin of pride. For one thing, he has never showed the cardinal virtue of humility in claiming authorship of Edsa. Particularly in the case of the second one. Edsa II had no one particular author, it was a spontaneous combustion from media, civil society, the business community, the schools, the Church and ordinary folk coming together. Sin, of course, has had no small help in staking his claim to it from the direct beneficiary of Edsa II, the one person who never lifted a finger to make it possible. GMA put him first in line to thank in her inaugural speech.

But Cardinal Sin's commission of the cardinal sin of pride goes well beyond this. It's also that his moral thunder is horrendously selective and patently tainted by politics. He thinks nothing of hitting the rich and powerful? Not really. Only some rich and some powerful.

The voice of righteousness that rumbled down from heaven when Marcos and Erap were unleashing a reign of greed and murder became deafeningly silent when Cory and Gloria were doing exactly the same thing. It wasn't Sin who complained bitterly about the corruption in Cory's time that was threatening to rival Marcos' own, it was Chino Roces. Roces was the one possessed of the virtue of humility, who fought Marcos from when Sin was still a mote in the public eye; who endured prison and derision; and who, having come back in the glorious robes of victory, did not mind risking the ire of power by raising his voice against it.

And it isn't Sin who is bitterly railing at a regime that has gotten worse than the one it replaced, a regime that has broken records in ignominy, turning the country among other things into the most dangerous place for journalists, the second most corrupt country in Asia, the *jueteng* capital of the world. It is Oscar Cruz.

Though waging a crusade against *jueteng* seems a small thing to build a huge reputation on, it in fact strikes at the heart of the current regime, exposing its rottenness to the core. *Jueteng* is the one thing that conspicuously shows the utter failure of the GMA administration to move the country an inch after Erap—other than backward. Cruz has become the Arroyos' cross, which gets heavier every step they take.

Unlike Sin, who enjoyed the relative safety of the capital and basked in the eyes of the world, Cruz is vulnerable where he is. Provincial journalists are already being murdered by the day, provincial bishops may easily be next. This regime has already pushed back by a mile the line drawn at certain things. Cruz himself says he has received death threats.

Even more unlike Sin, Cruz has the lonelier road to take. Which is what makes him all the more heroic. Sin at least had the backing of a country that had grown ferociously hostile to tyranny. He had the support of the Church, the business community, the academe, the NGOs, media and an outraged populace. Cruz does not. Armed with a stick, he is almost single-handedly trying to budge a boulder that's stuck in a crevice. He is trying to rouse a people from a state of profound inertia, a people benumbed by hope constantly being turned into disappointment. He is raising a powerful voice against tyranny while a country sleeps, while civil society in particular sleeps not the peaceful sleep of the just but the fitful sleep of the raiders of the Peace bonds.

I don't know how Cruz will turn out. But right now, his cause blazes forth in all its glory, for its purely moral rather than political agenda. "All I have is the truth, nothing more, nothing less."

What else is there worth having?

Mikey should tackle accusation

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT was a wise decision for Rep. Mikey Arroyo to cancel his House-authorized trip to the US (where he was scheduled to address the Filipino-American community in Chicago for Independence Day) and instead concentrate on clearing his name and his family. This should be his top priority as it's not only his name but most especially that of his mother, the President, which is being sullied by the *jueteng* controversy. The young Arroyo cannot hide behind his mother's skirt on this issue. He has to handle it on his own.

* * *

Those implicated by confessed *jueteng* operator Wilfredo Mayor, including three representatives of Albay, are now all denying their alleged complicity. The police, on the other hand, checking on his background and story, assert that his real name is Wilfredo Montemayor, and that some policemen he has implicated do not exist in their records. The revelation that Mayor is not using his real name would, doubtless, provoke the question of what else he has faked.

In fact, at the Senate hearing, Sen. Joker Arroyo, who's also a Bicolano, tried to extract from him the names of his financiers. Arroyo's point seemed to be that since the confessed *jueteng* operator is not among the big *jueteng* names often mentioned, like Bong Pineda and Armand Sanchez, there must be someone behind him. But Mayor stuck to his story that he's his own creation. Joker obviously did not believe him.

* * *

Pundits are also one in saying that his claims have to be substantiated if they are to go beyond hearsay. There is need for corroborating testimony—that is, somebody surfacing to claim he gave the payola to Mikey Arroyo. But there's a crucial point in Mayor's testimony, which I'd like to emphasize—the huge amount involved in this vice. At one time, he claimed to gross as much as P90 million a month from his hometown operations alone! And to think he was all over Albay, Baguio and Pangasinan. This means that so much money is being siphoned off from the poor who are the main patrons of *jueteng*. In fact, Mayor admitted that "the small people are the ones who are victimized...If before there was no cheating in *jueteng*, today cheating in this numbers game is already ongoing." If the poor are being cheated blind, why should this vice be legalized? Would the *jueteng* operators give up on this huge source of income and reform? Let's not be naive.

* * *

I wrote earlier about Senate chief Franklin Drilon's assertion that in his native Iloilo and the rest of Panay there's no *jueteng*. Antique Gov. Sally Perez called up to affirm this. In fact, she pointed out that she has been cited three years in a row by the "Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng," which is headed by Archbishop Oscar Cruz. I asked Perez how Antique has been able to ward *jueteng* off and she credited the local police. "We have a very good police force," she said, adding that the local government officials cannot do it without the cooperation of the police.

* * *

I am one with Archbishop Cruz in his anti-*jueteng* crusade. But I think that if he is to be truly effective, he has to purge himself of the perception that he is out to exact political vendetta against the President. His motives have to be truly pure because his goal is truly noble. I recall that after the launch of his "Krusada" in Makati three years ago, where GMA failed to attend as guest of honor (then Interior Secretary Joey Lina, also a staunch anti-*jueteng* advocate, represented her), Cruz began to hit GMA on various issues. I hope it was not because of a pricked ego resulting from a perceived snub. I queried a Palace official about this, and he admitted that a subordinate failed to realize that the Krusada had asked GMA to give another date if she was unavailable on the original date. *Baka talagang* feeling snubbed *nga si* Msgr. Cruz.

* * *

Every time a friend or relative celebrates his or her 70th birthday, I try to be there for it, as this is known as the "biblical age," during which the celebrant is said to be truly bestowed all the wisdom of age. My good friend, former Biliran representative and now mayor of the town of Naval, Gerry Espina, celebrated his 70th last Friday in his QC home. I caught up with his party after a taping at dzRH with Cecile Alvarez, who was leaving for Europe to nail down commitments for her coming June 2006 International Theater Institute summit in Manila. Among those who were there for Gerry's biblical age were President Macapagal-Arroyo and former First Lady Imelda Marcos. I learned that GMA came early, and minutes after she left, Imelda arrived. I quipped to Gerry whether the coming and going were coordinated with him, and he laughed and said he didn't even know Imelda was coming (as a young Manila assemblyman, he was close to Ferdinand Marcos). But one thing about the parties of the Espinas, there's always great music to enjoy, for like Gerry and his wife, all their six children as well as all their grandchildren sing very well, they could be professionals. Many of them also play musical instruments. Isn't there anyone in the family who cannot sing? I asked Gerry. No one, he said.

* * *

My family's profound condolence to two friends who lost their respective mothers in the last few days. Neda chief Romy Neri's mom, Ms Rosario Luminarias Neri, died last May 29 and lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels at Araneta Ave., Q.C. Her interment will be this Sunday after the 2 p.m. Mass at the chapels. Government media chief Cerge Remonde's mom, Ms Florentina Alburo, lies in state at the CSCST campus in Argao, Cebu, where the family comes from, and will be buried this Friday, after the 2 p.m. Requiem Mass. Assuaging their grief, however, is the fact that both officials had the blessing of having their mothers around for a long time.

Mosquito war

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE RAIN clouds of June are hovering over us, every now and then releasing torrents to ease our parchedness. In cities, particularly Metro Manila, a thick brown gray soup will soon inundate low-lying areas for days and even weeks and play host to deadly vermin, insects and bacteria that will cause health problems and even death.

Classes are about to begin and many young school children will wade into deadly mini-rivers and absorb much of the filth of the city. Meanwhile, drug companies make tongue-in-cheek warnings like "*Bawal magkasakit*" (Getting sick is prohibited!) as if getting sick is a sinful desire.

A few months ago, my friend's niece died of dengue. She had just graduated from medical school. All it takes is one deadly mosquito.

I bring up the subject of mosquitoes because of what befell TV journalist Reyster Langit, son of broadcast veteran Rey Langit (both of the *Kasangga Mo ay Langit* docu-type TV program). Reyster was downed by cerebral malaria and is now in critical condition in the US where he was stricken ill. His cameraman Arnold succumbed. (I didn't catch his full name but may he rest in peace.)

Reyster's team, a TV report said, went to the Palawan jungles a few weeks ago to document what was happening among the Tau't Bato indigenous community there. Children were dying of something. Footage of the team traversing the wilds was shown on GMA-7 "*Beinte Kuatro*" news program. Everyone looked strong and healthy. Little did Reyster's team know that what hit the mountain community would also hit them.

GMA-7 has been following up the story the past two days, even getting in touch with Rey Langit who is with his sick son in the US. It has also provided informative material on what cerebral malaria is. (Say, se'reebral.)

I don't know the Langit father and son or anyone from the "Kasangga" team personally, but I always feel bad and concerned when someone from the media gets struck down in any way, physically or emotionally.

Last week I attended a seminar on "Vicarious Traumatization of Journalists" which dealt mainly on the psychological trauma working journalists go through. The effects of these negative experiences are often bottled up inside.

Realizing that journalists undergo not just vicarious trauma, but direct trauma as well (as in surviving murder attempts and being under constant threat), the seminar organizers expanded the discussion. (We will come out with a front-page special report on this.)

What the "Kasangga" team experienced in the aftermath of their Palawan foray—death and disease—is certainly traumatic. There surely is a lot to be learned from this. Preparedness is one of them.

I've had my share of jungle journalism. I've had my share of drinking from forest springs, bathing in freezing rivers, slipping on a mountain slope and grabbing on to poisonous *bulan-bulan* leaves that left my hands burning, encountering a snake, prying away bloody leeches, meeting with armed men and women, interviewing a mountain tribal priestess on a lofty mountain top. But, thank God, I had never fallen ill. Maybe the right mosquito or parasite did not find me. All I went home with always was an aching weak left knee.

I did some research on cerebral malaria and found a lot. A map of the Philippines shows which parts are endemic to malaria. The caption says: "This is only intended as a guide since mosquitoes do not respect boundaries." Gee, I wish they did.

A malaria website says that approximately 300 million people worldwide are affected by malaria and between 1 and 1.5 million die from it every year. Extremely widespread many years ago, malaria is now mainly confined to Africa, Asia and Latin America. The problems of controlling malaria are aggravated by inadequate health structures and poor socioeconomic conditions. The situation has become even more complex over the last few years with the parasites' increased resistance to the drugs normally used.

Malaria is caused by a protozoan parasite of the genus plasmodium. The four species of plasmodium that can cause malaria are plasmodium falciparum, plasmodium vivax, plasmodium ovale and plasmodium malaria. P. falciparum is the most widespread and dangerous of the four. It could cause fatal cerebral malaria.

Malaria parasites are transmitted from one person to another by the female anopheline mosquito. The males do not transmit the parasite because they only feed on plant juices and do not suck blood. Of the 380 species of the anopheline mosquito only 60 or so could transmit the parasite.

Anophelines breed in water. Each species has its preferred breeding grounds, feeding patterns and resting place. Their response to insecticides also vary.

Plasmodium develops in the gut of the mosquito and is passed on to the insect's saliva during a blood meal. The bitten victims' blood carries the parasites to the liver where the parasites invade the cells and multiply.

After about two weeks, the parasites return to the victim's blood and penetrate the red cells where they again multiply. The infected person could have chills, fevers and anemia. In cerebral malaria, the infected red cells obstruct the blood vessels in the brain. Other vital organs could also be affected.

Anti-malarial drugs could kill the parasite. Unfortunately, some parasites have developed resistance to the drugs. In endemic regions where people are often infected, people develop immunity. But children and pregnant women are highly vulnerable.

The word malaria comes from "mal air ia" or bad air from swamps.

Some journalists are now arming themselves against assassins. We should also arm ourselves against mosquitoes.

(Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph)

Amend the flag law

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MUCH fuss has been made about disrespect for the flag, but what's often overlooked is how our government has made it difficult to properly respect the flag or to obey the flag law. To show this point, I want to give a couple of examples.

The first concerns the mania—the fad—for displaying enormous numbers of the flag. There is no way proper reverence for each displayed flag can be maintained so long as government officials continue with their fetish for displaying the flag en masse. Malacañang, the City of Manila, and the National Historical Institute (whose chair and staff I hold in deep affection, though I strongly disagree with them on this matter) are the chief culprits in this.

When you display the flag en masse, you end up doing several things. First, the flags are quickly and cheaply produced, which leads to violations of standards (e.g., color and design) that are mandated by law. Then you have to find places where to display the flags from, which results in flags being nailed, stapled, even glued, to pieces of plywood, tree branches and poles of insufficient length, etc. Then, once on display, they are left to deteriorate; and the requirements as to the lowering and raising of the flag become impossible to follow. To top it off, when you display the flag en masse, presidential proclamations to fly the flag at half-staff get to be ignored because of the nature of things (poles, twigs, etc.) to which the flags are attached.

The spirit and intention of the law is to foster reverence and care for the flag, but then some of our practices in displaying the flag violate the spirit and letter of the law. The flag is not for decoration; to display it en masse is to use it primarily for decorative effect.

The second example concerns enforcing standards. I opposed the change of the color of our flag in 1998, both on historical and practical grounds. Historical grounds are always debatable; but once a law is passed, it's every citizen's duty to obey that law. But I believe that my practical arguments have been validated over time. From the time the NHI adopted specific color standards in the 1950s until Marcos changed the color of the flag in the early 1980s, every manufacturer knew the right color shades for the flag. The NHI in the 1950s made reference to international color standards for textiles. When the flag law was passed in 1998, reference was again made to these color standards, which are published in New York and known as "cable colors."

Here's the problem. The shades chosen are not enforced, and this bothers me, considering the fervor that attended the debate and discussions on the matter among historians, and the bother our legislature, presidents, and government, in general, went through to make the change. Either the change was worth making, and thus, it's worth enforcing; or it was bogus, useless and senseless, and the sooner we go back to the old, predictable, convenient standards, the better.

When I asked the DTI, which is supposed to look after things such as standards for industries (and this would include the standards used in the dyeing and coloring of textiles), it did not have the reference book that the flag law refers to. In fact, we asked the help of Patis Tesoro (when government fails, it helps to appeal to the private sector) to find this book, but the search just came to a blank wall because the book is expensive and only a few manufacturers seem to have it. In the end, to arrive at a formula for dyeing the correct blue color, we had to undertake a complicated experiment: we asked flag experts abroad to approximate the cable color as a color defined by another color system, Pantone, which is actually mainly used for print (this was necessary, anyway, as it is important to have acceptable equivalents for our national colors in the color systems used for different media), and then use that as a basis for arriving at a dye. The NHI at the time was most unhelpful in this matter.

To make things worse, I inquired with various flag manufacturers as to how they arrived at the correct color. I received the frank reply from one of them that it was impossible to produce the only legal, authorized shade of blue for our flag—at least, the flag manufacturer said, in the case of nylon, of which most of our flags are made of. It is possible to dye textiles to the correct shade of blue, but only if you make flags in one of the two traditional ways: out of canvas (with Patis Tesoro we experimented with silk, which the best flags are made of, but the quality of the dye depended on the quality of the silk, and we only had a P5,000 budget).

In other words: the law mandates specific shades of blue, red and golden yellow for the flag. Who will enforce it? And by what means? The basis for the shades, the cable colors reference book, is hard, if not impossible, to find. And the manufacturers themselves admit it's impossible to make flags in the correct colors. So why do we have a law, and people trying to enforce the law, when the law may suffer from the defect of being unenforceable, anyway?

We have a flag law that was cobbled together from old laws, with all sorts of senseless, useless, and potentially illegal innovations. (More on these in another column; but here's a hint: our national motto is kilometric and our national coat of arms is illegal; our executive issuances suffer from the defect of requiring authentication by the great seal of the Republic, which does not exist, potentially rendering all executive issuances since 1998 null and void.) The law itself makes it difficult to follow the law. And some official practices breed contempt for the flag.

Chatting for dollars

YOUNG BLOOD

Cheryl R. Chua

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

PEOPLE who join a chat room look for friendship, love or money—or all of the three.

When I was studying in college, I chatted to have more friends, usually students of the university I was going to, with whom I seemed to relate more easily in chat rooms than in any part of the campus. I often wondered why it was so much easier to be a "friend" online than face to face. It seemed uncomplicated to reveal who you were while hiding behind an assumed nickname that was supposed to describe a part of you in six letters or more.

After college, I made a conscious effort not to chat, thinking there were better things to do than meet "friends" online whom I may never even see. But recently, I have been chatting heavily, even staying up late at times. My interest in foreign languages gives me a valid reason to spend my free time online, teaching English to my Korean teacher/student while he teaches me his own language.

Since January, I have spent most of my weekends and a good part of my salary in Internet cafés, glued in front of a computer monitor. Which isn't a waste of time or money because now I can read Korean characters after barely one month of taking lessons. I must warn you, though, that I read Hankookmal like a kindergarten pupil reads the English alphabet, which is very slowly and sometimes wrongly.

My frequent visits to Internet cafés have made me realize how pragmatic life has become in our country. It has opened my eyes to a new opportunity for women to earn dollars without having to go abroad. Imagine earning $100 dollars in just one sitting—or chatting.

I often see women waiting patiently in a queue for a computer to be vacated. It's interesting to hear their stories about their foreign chat mates and compare items they have received from their so-called boyfriends. Even more interesting and embarrassing to me is the fact that some of them actually make a living out of chatting.

There are actually women who deliberately look for online "boyfriends" with the intention of asking for financial support later. Once they hook up with a foreign boyfriend, they feign financial problems and subtly ask for money. Some women employ all of their charms to get dollars, while others tell tales about serious financial troubles to get their boyfriends to send monetary help. I have heard one experienced chatter boasting that she was doing this thing not just to a single online boyfriend but to as many as five at a time! As soon as she was done with one, she would quickly sign in again using another nickname and chat.

Some more experienced chatters say that if you get lucky even with just one foreign boyfriend, you could end up being rich real easy or you could have the chance to live in some foreign country, after getting married.

Don't get me wrong. I have heard about women who married foreigners they had met online or otherwise, but what about women who chat to ask for money? Let's face it, this is a new preoccupation and it is spreading rapidly.

I am not in a position to make any judgment as to whether what these women are doing is illegal or immoral. But I cannot help but think that somewhere something is lost. The love that normally connects and unites two souls is now being replaced by financial transaction. It's not anymore a question of liking the person but liking what the person has to offer.

Survival or vanity breaks not just the language barrier but love. Of course, feelings can develop as they say. But whether or not love grows, the fact remains that the relationship started on practical considerations. Life in our country must be hard, indeed.

Some women do not even establish real relationships. For them, it's just flirting and/or extorting. They change partners like they were taking part in some kind of race. Perhaps, they are—but in a race to a "better" future.

You want to earn dollars? Just log on to a chat room, find foreign faces that look friendly (or horny) enough to part with some of his money, and presto, you have an instant financial provider at your beck and call.

Cheryl R. Chua, 24, works in a USAID-funded project that provides technical assistance to cooperatives in Mindanao and the Visayas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Creators of wealth

"Small entrepreneurs are today's wealth creators, and tomorrow's big companies. For an economy to thrive, we must give rise to more of them."

—Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Ma A. Concepcion, urging people involved in the Believe and Inspire Movement to increase small and medium enterprises.

Wish fulfilled

"In fairness, I have been wanting to quit several times before. But now, suddenly, my wish has come true. This is the first time this has happened. I have now become an unemployment statistic."

—Julie Yap Daza, on her resignation as editor in chief of the newly merged newspapers Manila Standard and Today

Boss' call

"Like in basketball, the owner has a vision for the team. Even if you're a good player, as long as the owner wants to change the way he runs his team, he can always trade you."

—Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, on his departure from the Department of Health

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Unlicensed guns kill more people

THIS has reference to the President's call during the May 14 anti-crime summit to "look into legislation that can tackle access to firearms and bring their availability under control" while at the same time to "look at new, stiffer penalties for anyone using a firearm when committing a crime."

We respect the President's prerogative on the gun issue, but our legislators should distinguish between loose firearms in the hands of criminals and licensed firearms in the hands of peace-loving citizens. A check with the records of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) will show that only 12 licensed firearms as against 1,719 unlicensed were involved in criminal cases for the whole year of 2004. Further scrutiny of this record will reveal that these 12 cases involve minor infractions of gun laws and are not related to murders of journalists and high-profile personalities.

The firearms industry does its share in nation-building by way of export revenues and income derived by government from customs duties, VAT, local business taxes and firearm license fees collected from licensed gun owners. The National Statistics Office recorded the combined FOB value of imported and exported firearms and ammunition in 2003 at around $11.6 million and $10.6 million in 2004; while the FED collected around P212.20 million and P210.24 million in license fees in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

Over 3,000 families around the country are dependent on the industry (gun factories and wholesale/retail firearm establishments) for their income. Over 900,000 licensed firearm holders relying on their guns for personal/family security, recreation or shooting sport will also be affected by any proposed legislation.

The irony is that the executive order on gun amnesty allows an applicant to get a license for a loose firearm without securing any of the requirements normally imposed on regular license applications. Such practice deprives the government of much-needed revenues from customs duties and VAT and encourages the smuggling of firearms.

In the end, legitimate businesses and peace-loving gun owners will bear the brunt of another assault on gun ownership, but the killings and murders perpetrated by the use of unlicensed guns will continue unabated.

—NEREO S. DIONISIO, MNSA,
president,
Association of Firearms & Ammunition Dealers (AFAD) of the Philippines Inc.,
Suite 200 PBD Bldg., 27 Don Alejandro Roces Ave., 1103 Quezon City

Reaction to Agustin's report on 'water revolt' at Global City

TO AVOID and correct any misconceptions that may have been created by Vic Agustin's May 11 column, may we clarify:

Bonifacio Water Corporation (BWC), a joint venture between Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) and Veolia Water Company of France, sources all the water it distributes within the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) from Manila Water Co.

It also collects the wastewater within the water infrastructure and sewage treatment system that BWC developed within the BGC. More than 50 percent of the BWC tariff in the Bonifacio Global City covers charges for wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services. In other Metro Manila areas, sewerage and environmental charges are collected from all its customers, even if sewerage treatment systems are not completely provided.

For 2005, the National Water Resources Board, the government agency mandated to regulate water tariffs, has approved BWC's tariffs at P159.96 per cubic meter for residential customers and P567.06 per cubic meter for commercial customers. However, BWC, in an agreement with FBDC, is currently charging only P80 per cubic meter for residential customers and P88 for commercial establishments, not P144 per cubic meter.

Manila Water increased its rates last January to P37 per cubic meter, not P16.82 per cubic meter.

BWC's water and wastewater services provide customers value for money:

(a) Customers enjoy drinking water supply without need of a pumping mechanism, 24 hours a day.

(b) Water quality is regularly monitored at various points of the distribution system.

(c) Water quality meets the standards set by the Philippine Standard for Drinking Water.

(d) Water and wastewater pipelines are all brand new. This is important because new pipelines minimize, if not eliminate, possible water contamination.

(e) The wastewater treatment system is completely constructed to guarantee the total collection and treatment of wastewater discharged inside the BGC.

(f) A 24-hour customer service hotline is available to get feedback and address concerns of customers.

The water rate for BWC's condominium customers inside the BGC is based on actual volume of water consumed, not on the occupied floor area of their buildings. BWC delivers water to condominium customers only up to their boundary meters (or mother meters). The property management unit of each residential condominium operates and maintains the water and wastewater network within their respective buildings. Thus, these property management units are also responsible for the distribution of water, the collection of wastewater, as well as the preparation and issuance of billing statements to individual residential units within their condominiums.

BWC is negotiating with Manila Water so it can bring down water rates within BGC.

—ANICETO V. BISNAR JR.,
head,
Commercial Operations,
Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.,
Taguig, Metro Manila

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Going for the lesser evil

"*JUEGO* " is the Spanish word for "game." And now *jueteng* seems to be everywhere. Even invading the front pages of newspapers and prime time TV slots, at that!

What I'm going to share with you is the result of serious reflections and consultations with wizened elders and concerned citizens.

To bet (or risk one's last money on a game of chance) or to try one's luck seems to be ingrained in everyone (of course, in varying degrees). We play bingo and lotto; we buy sweepstakes and raffle tickets; and we play mahjong.

When a rich man feels the desire to gamble, he goes to the casino and shells out thousands or millions of pesos up to the wee hours of the morning. "Nothing wrong with that—after all, a casino is legitimate. Legal," people would say.

But when poor Mang Juan feels the "itch" to try his luck, he hails the "*kubrador*" and makes a bet of 50 centavos in *jueteng*—the whole process taking just a little over a minute—and the world shouts out, "That's wrong because *jueteng* is illegal."

Ours is a society which applies the law differently on the weak and the poor and on the moneyed and the powerful.

Don't you think it's time we legalized *jueteng*?

Some have pushed the panic button. Their worn-out argument, which has been taken out and dusted off: "Then we might as well legalize prostitution." These evils have been with us, and our tendency is to look the other way and whistle in the dark, pretending "it's not there." (Just like the problem of homosexuality. But let's not complicate the issue of *jueteng*.)

Legalized *jueteng*, under the control of the proper government agency—with enough power to see to it that there is no cheating and that taxes properly go to projects for the marginalized—has been long in coming.

Some are rightfully concerned that our children might squander their "*baon*" on *jueteng*. But the law can include a provision barring minors from engaging in *jueteng*.

In this very imperfect world, we must exert all efforts to confront evil. After all these years of fighting a futile war on *jueteng*, the time has come for us to grab the bull by the horns. Let's settle for the lesser evil.

God created the world—in the best way he could. But man bungled God's creation. In the meantime, let's do the best we can and come up with the best we can do.

In the face of two evils, we might as well tolerate the lesser one.

—MSGR. NICO BAUTISTA,
Tahanan E.F.-Benita,
Los Baños, Laguna

Does Migrante really care for Robert Tarongoy?

A CERTAIN Lito Mabaquiao, who signed as spokesperson of Migrante-Manila in a letter to the INQUIRER, asked: Is Torongoy still alive or dead? (PDI, 5/24/05)

After professing to be so concerned about the fate of Robert Tarongoy, Mabaquiao suddenly segued to hit our office, the Office of External Affairs (OEA), whose officials "only know how to collect money from the OFWs." We would not want to engage Migrante in a useless debate.

However, we hope Migrante can be more specific about how we collect money from the overseas Filipino workers. Migrante may be referring to our "*Dagdag Padala sa Pamilya*" campaign among our OFWs. If Mabaquiao can at least read, the phrase "*padala sa pamilya*" (remittance to family) is clear enough.

The question is, does Migrante really care for the interest of our OFWs? Really? For if it really does care for the genuine welfare of our OFWs, then it will be guilty of something that it most abhors—being a "reformist." Tarongoy, De la Cruz, Contemplacion, Balabagan, et al. are but propaganda fodder for Migrante. The fact is, the more Tarongoys there will be, the happier and the better for Mabaquiao and his ilk.

Or Migrante is just so peeved because its former firebrand, Poe Gratela and former propagandist John Batara are now working with OEA, to assist distressed OFWs. This time, for real!

—LUZVIMINDO DAVID,
Office of External Affairs,
Bahay Ugnayan,
Malacañang Complex,
San Miguel, Manila

Senator Pimentel among the first to welcome Sabio's appointment

JUDGE Erasto D. Salcedo wrote that I am "uncomfortable with the appointment" of lawyer Camilo Sabio as the replacement of PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) Chair Haydee Yorac. (PDI, 5/19/05)

I do not know where the judge is coming from. He equates my having said that Yorac was pressured into resigning as a sign of my disapproval of Sabio's taking over her place. No logic there—judicial or geriatric.

Apparently, the judge does not know that I was among the very first to have congratulated Mil Sabio, my cousin, upon the announcement of his OIC appointment by print, radio and television journalists. Our own congressman, Tenex Jaraula, of Cagayan de Oro passed on to Mil my expressed elation over his good fortune.

Mindanao deserves more, not less, representation in government, and Mil, indeed, is a good choice. I do not rub this in because praises coming from me as the Senate minority leader might prejudice his relationship with Malacañang.

—SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.,
Senate,
6/F GSIS Building,
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Open books, audit coco funds

JUAN L. Mercado hit the nail on the head in his May 12 column, "Hey, big spenders," when he wrote, among other things that "Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies extorted, in the name of the New Society, levies from impoverished coconut farmers. Today's coco officials burned that blood money with abandon. Thousands of small farmers have died without even getting a centavo in dividends for their levies."

On behalf of the small coconut farmers, I urge the Presidential Commission on Good Government to open the books of the entire coco levy funds for a transparent audit in order to find out if these have been misused by coco officials.

Finally, the Sandiganbayan itself incorporated in its resolution the following, to wit: "It is high time that the real beneficiaries of the coconut levy funds, the coconut farmers who contributed to it and the entire coconut industry be given a chance to reap the benefits that are due them."

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna,
vice chairman,
Cocofed (Coconut Producers Federation of the Phils.),
Pagsanjan Chapter,
Office of the Municipal Vice Mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

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Palparan: Deaths small sacrifices

By Philip C. Tubeza and Bernice Mendoza

"THE ENEMY is everywhere in Samar island." This was how Gen. Jovito Palparan, described the communist rebellion as he justified the military offensives during a House defense committee hearing on Tuesday.

Palparan, chief of the 8th Infantry Division, said around 50 to 60 percent of the population in Samar sympathized with the communist New People's Army (NPA), adding that the deaths that happened under his watch were "small sacrifices."

He said the NPA had gathered a "vast intelligence network," which had supposedly infiltrated local government units and even the military.

Palparan said that 19 soldiers have so far been suspected of being in cahoots with the rebels and that of these, 17 had been transferred, one discharged, and another is being investigated. He did not identify soldiers suspected to be communist-sympathizers.

Palparan said that compared to the number of people attacked by insurgents, the deaths of civilians and local officials brought about by the military's anti-insurgency campaign in the island were "small sacrifices."

He insisted that the number of local officials and civilians killed before he was assigned to Samar was greater than the number of civilians killed under his command, and that some of the latter were either "directly linked to the armed group [CPP-NPA]" or "fighting [the] government."

Palparan, who is waiting for the Commission on Appointments to confirm his promotion from brigadier general to major general, has been blamed by various individuals, human rights groups, and Western Samar's two lawmakers—Reps. Catalino Figueroa (2nd District) and Reynaldo Uy (1st District)—for the 199 human rights violations documented since he was assigned in the province.

Palparan, however, said the accusations that he personally approved killings and other human rights violations were "highly malicious," "unfounded and unproven."

"How can I think of killing a person … whom I was not fully knowledgeable of?" he asked, referring to human rights lawyer Felidito Dacut, who was killed on March 14.

He also said that he would not do anything to worsen his already bad reputation as "Berdugo ng Mindoro," referring to his alleged dismal human rights record in that province.

"If there are facts, submit [them] to [the] proper forum … Some of those mentioned need proper investigation," he added.

Palparan portrayed himself as the object of a "smear campaign," which he said was launched in December 2004 by militant groups including Bayan Muna.

Some lawmakers present during the hearing did not buy Palparan's "justification" of his operations.

"Gen. Palparan's revelation today at the hearing that the NPA has massive intelligence network reaching even the cities of the mayors, governors, and certain military elements explain the rationale for his military operations," Figueroa said in a statement released after the hearing.

"If indeed this is true, then he is claiming that the NPA has the support of the people of Samar so that he must kill/annihilate our population in order to win his war," he added.

Uy said the Department of National Defense should explain if it approved Palparan's policy in Samar.

"And maybe we should also ask our President, Palparan's commander-in-chief, if she approved of the human rights violations being done and if they believe that the only solution to the insurgency problem are military operations," he added.

"The problem is that the military fails to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants," said Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales as she urged Palparan to stop the attacks and instead start studying why Samareños supported the rebels.

Rep. Liza Maza of the Gabriela Women's Party also reminded Palparan that "the fact that you are not admitting [responsibility for the charges] does not absolve you."

In Samar, Bishop Jose Palma of the Calbayog City Diocese based in Samar appealed to Palparan to stop what he called the "gripping fear that has descended [on] Samar."

With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Zambales vice gov says gov threatened to shoot him

OLONGAPO CITY—The rift between the two top officials of Zambales continued to heat up after Gov. Vicente Magsaysay reportedly threatened to shoot Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II during a session of the provincial board here on Monday.

According to Lacbain, two of his staff members heard Magsaysay tell Board Member Erodito Paradeza, "*Buti di ko dala .45 ko, kung hindi binaril ko na yang si* vice governor (If I were carrying my .45 cal. pistol, I would have shot the vice governor)."

"This was the second time our governor had threatened to kill me," Lacbain told the INQUIRER.

In October last year, he said Magsaysay also threatened to shoot him if he would oppose the governor's policies.

But Magsaysay dismissed Lacbain's accusations.

"That's not true. He (Lacbain) is a big liar," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

"The board members present during the session would prove that Lacbain's claims were all wrong," Magsaysay said.

Paradeza also denied Lacbain's claims, saying Magsaysay did not threaten the vice governor. "No such thing happened during our regular session," said Paradeza.

Board Member Fred Felarca said Magsaysay was present during the session but the governor did not threaten Lacbain.

"*Walang nangyaring* threat, *duwag lang si* Vice Gov. Lacbain (No threat was aired, Lacbain is just a coward)," said Felarca.

The conflict between Lacbain and Magsaysay started when Lacbain withdrew his support for a resolution authorizing Magsaysay to carry out a reorganization of the provincial bureaucracy last year.

Lacbain quoted Magsaysay as saying then, "(If you commit that same offense), I will kill you."

Lacbain also said the governor threatened to "bodily remove" him as presiding officer of the provincial board recently.

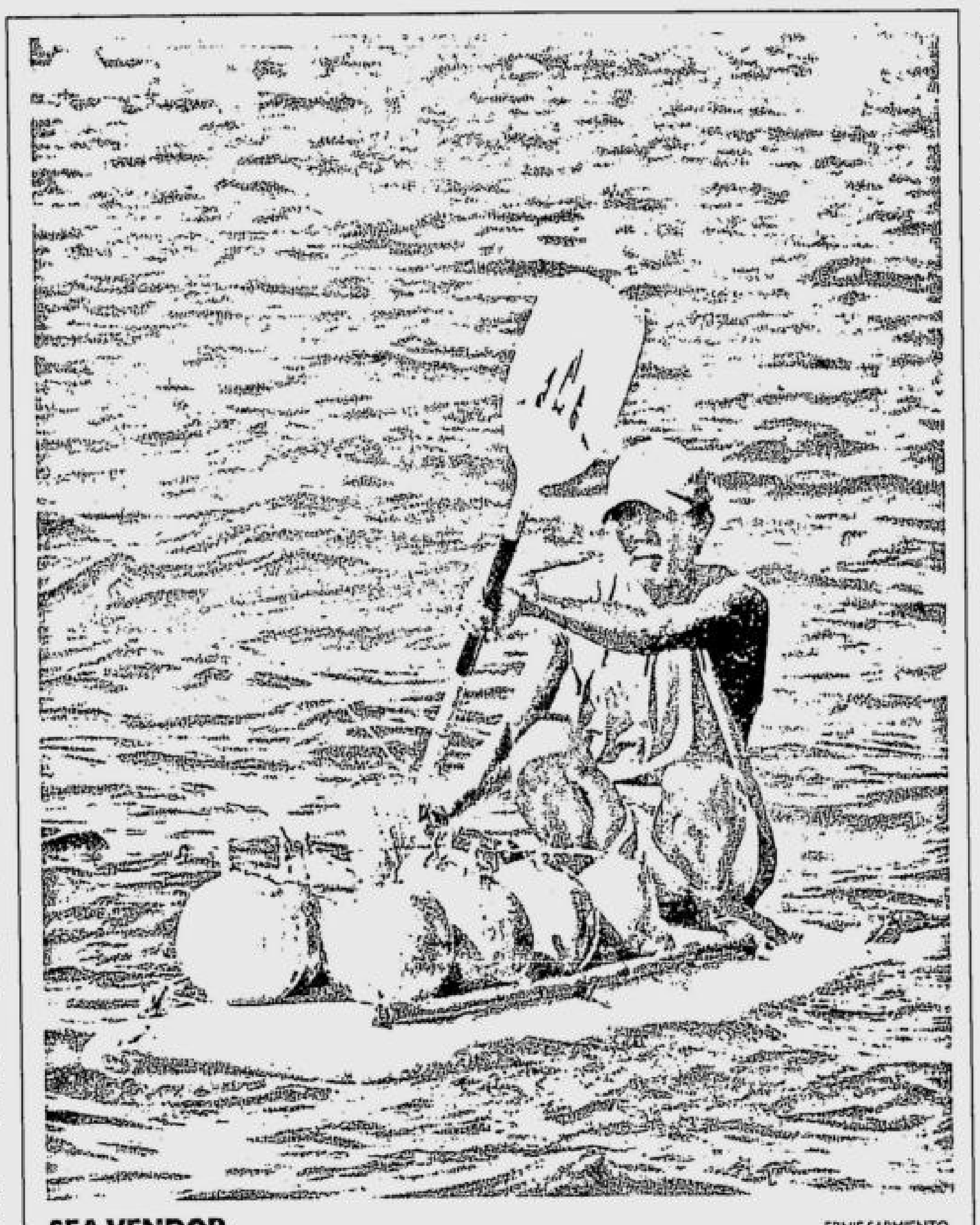
"[Magsaysay] also wanted to prevent all members of the provincial board from attending regular sessions so there would be no quorum," he said.

He said Magsaysay wanted him to withdraw his objection to a resolution appropriating P1 million in representation expenses of the governor.

"The governor already has a budget of P1.5 million for 2005 and to request for an additional P1 million is already too much," Lacbain said.

He said several months ago, Magsaysay issued an executive order directing all officials and employees of the provincial government to exercise austerity measures.

"The governor removed my previous year's budget of P3 million and gave me zero budget for 2005 and yet his representation expenses total P2.5 million. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



SEA VENDOR

ERNIE SARMIENTO

An enterprising 'buko' vendor delivers his goods to tourists in the middle of the sea snorkeling or scuba diving in Malay, Aklan using a makeshift raft.

Baguio council ethics members implicated in several scams

BAGUIO CITY—The chair of the city council's ethics committee resigned on Monday, after he and another committee member were accused of receiving bribes to endorse several projects here.

Councilor Galo Weygan, the remaining committee member, had been asked to investigate the charges that implicated Councilor Leandro Yangot, committee chair, and Councilor Jose Molintas, a human rights lawyer.

Eugene Pelle, a carnival operator, linked Yangot to a scheme to push for a carnival project at the Quezon Elementary School grounds, when he testified before the council last week.

The Flower Festival Carnival was endorsed to the council by Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo through a letter, and was subsequently approved by the mayor's office.

But the council reduced the carnival's operations from the approved 60 days to only 20 days, forcing its operators to complain about the money they allegedly paid Yangot.

Pelle said Yangot was paid up to P190,000 to help them get the city government's approval.

Yangot leaked to the local media last week a third scandal involving two councilors, who allegedly benefited from lobby money to endorse a firm vying for a contract to clean up Baguio's dump in Barangay Irisan.

Baguio is facing a deadline to contain and convert its dump into an environment-friendly solid waste facility, and Yangot said efforts to speed up the conversion has become an opportunity for some councilors to get kickbacks from a P1 million government fund allocated for the dump.

Molintas has been alluded to because he was authoring a measure detailing the dump's modernization.

Earlier, Molintas was also implicated along with another councilor, Faustino Olowan, in a supposed plot to railroad the approval of a Grand Cordillera Cañao Festival at Burnham Park's football field.

Molintas denied the charges hurled by Nicolas Cawed, a government park supervisor, and the festival's coordinator.

A trade fair complementing the festival was eventually stopped by Mayor Braulio Yaranon.

In a privilege speech, Yangot announced his resignation as ethics committee chair after advising the council that he had sued Pelle for libel.

Yangot ended his speech by stressing that he was the subject of a smear campaign allegedly coming from the mayor's office. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Vietnamese poachers get 6-month prison term

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Tired of foreign fishermen getting away with Philippine laws, a regional trial court judge yesterday meted a six-month imprisonment for 12 Vietnamese nationals for poaching in Philippine waters.

After handing the decision in a full-packed courtroom, RTC Branch 51 Judge Chito Meregillano said he had grown tired of foreign poachers getting released without being given proper punishment even when he was still a prosecutor.

The 12 Vietnamese, who were caught near Mangsee Island, Balabac in Southern Palawan two weeks ago, pleaded guilty to poaching, a violation of Sec. 87 of the Philippine Fisheries Code (RA 8550).

Aside from the six-month imprisonment, the Vietnamese were ordered to collectively pay $100,000 as fine for poaching.

If this amount will not be raised, a subsidiary six-month imprisonment will be enforced.

The Vietnamese will continue to serve prison term at the provincial jail where they have been detained since their arrest.

Their vessel will be in the custody of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Interpreter Nguyen Van Lam told the media, in behalf of the Vietnamese, that they "will still ask for the leniency of the court" on the other case filed against the 12.

They are still facing violation of Sec. 97 of RA 8550 or catching of endangered species.

Some dead turtles, considered endangered species, were found in the Vietnamese's vessels but their lawyers insisted that these were just accidentally caught in their fishnets.

If found guilty for catching endangered turtles, the punishment would be from 10 to 12 years imprisonment.

Nguyen said the embassy of Vietnam had already extended help to their nationals but they could not do anything because it is the Philippine law that should prevail. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GREENPEACE REPORTS TOXIC EMISSIONS

Groups call for stop to expansion of coal power plants

By Nestor Burgos and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Environmental groups in the Visayas have called for a stop to the construction and expansion of coal plants after a report of Greenpeace showed that two coal plants in Cebu were emitting toxic substances.

But Toledo City Mayor Arlene Espinosa Zambo refused to believe the Greenpeace report that coal power plants of Mirant Corp. in her city have been producing toxic fumes.

"It that was true, when we would have all been dead here in Toledo," Zambo said yesterday.

In a statement, Mirant public affairs manager Greggy Romualdez also refuted the findings of the Greenpeace report.

Romualdez said power plants operated by Mirant Philippines "complies with, and exceeds all pertinent environment rules and regulations such as the Philippine Clean Air Act, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, World Bank and US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) standards."

Ma. Geobelyn Lopez, spokesperson of the People's Response for the Protection of the Environment (Protect), said the Greenpeace report did not surprise them as it only proved again that coal plants are the dirtiest source of energy and there is no such thing as 'clean' coal."

In an eight-page report titled "Coal Fired Power Plants and Mirant: Climate Killers and Toxic Polluters" released Tuesday, Greenpeace said results of tests on ash by-products taken from Mirant's coal power plants last month in Toledo City were found positive for mercury, a deadly neurotoxin, and arsenic, a carcinogen.

Tests conducted by the group on the coal-plant of the Korean Electric Power Co. (Kepco) in Naga town in Cebu also showed the "insidious presence" of hazardous substances, which, the report said, "raised the possibility of widespread toxic contamination" in neighboring communities.

Mirant plans to add a 220-megawatt plant to the existing 75-mw plant in Toledo City while Kepco plans to put up a 200-mw plant in addition to the existing 110-mw plant in Naga.

"The report proves that Mirant has turned Toledo into a toxic playground," Vince Cinches, coordinator in Toledo of the Cebu Alliance for Renewable Energy (Care), told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Cinches said Mirant "should be held accountable" for diseases allegedly caused by emissions from the plant. He cited a report of the Toledo City health office that residents of the city had a high rate of upper-respiratory diseases.

But Zambo said the Mirant power plant located in Barangay Poblacion has not been emitting ashes for so long now and there has been no complaint from the residents near its site.

She said there were times when the plant emits foul odor, especially during rainy days, but not ashes as claimed by the Greenpeace activists.

She said that when the now defunct Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. (ACMDC) operated the plant, it emitted ashes and there were complaints of respiratory diseases among children who studied the Toledo City Central School.

When Mirant took over its operation on the early 1990s, the operation of the plant "improved a lot," the mayor said. "We have not recorded any person [getting sick] because of that power plant," she said.

Romualdez said Mirant plants use the latest available technologies to ensure that operations do not have any adverse effects on the environment. "Compliance with these regulations ensures that there is no harmful impact to the environment and to public health."

Members of the Visayas for Renewable Energy (V-Free), composed of non-government organizations and environmental groups from Negros Occidental, Panay, Cebu, Samar and Leyte, however said the putting up of new plants or expansion of existing ones should be called off because of the study results.

Instead of coal plants, renewable sources of energy should be tapped and developed, said Melvin Purzuelo of the Responsible Ilonggos for Renewable Energy (Rise).

Mirant is also proposing to put up a 100-mw plant in Barotac Viejo, Iloilo while DMCI also plans to put a similar plant in Concepcion town.

These two projects are facing opposition from the Catholic Church and environmental groups for its alleged threats to the environment and human health.

Zambo confirmed that the expansion of Mirant would start soon after a public hearing was conducted early this year and will be operational on 2008. The second plant is targeted to be operational by 2010, she said.

Zambo said the officials of Toledo will not totally reject the report of Greenpeace and would instead use it as basis in their close monitoring of the operation of Mirant.

STREET CANVAS DELFIN MALLARI JR.

Young artists have turned the concrete pavement of Lucena City's main avenue into a huge canvas with several depictions of the festival month of May during the street painting contest as part of the annual "Pasayahan sa Lucena."

MEDICINE, NURSING

Negros Or. allots ₱1M for scholarship grants

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial government has set aside P1 million in scholarship grants for medicine and nursing students beginning this school year to ensure that Negros Oriental will have government nurses and doctors in the future.

Provincial administrator Marilou Kho said one of the conditions for obtaining a scholarship is for the beneficiary to serve at least four years in a government hospital here after passing the board examination.

Earlier, provincial health officer Ely Villapando warned that it would just be a matter of time before all local government doctors would have left for work abroad as nurses. Of the 43 physicians in the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH), only seven did not take up nursing, he said.

Villapando added that seven doctors of the NOPH had already left for the United States to work as nurses.

He, however, said there was not much problem with regard to nurses because the country has so many nurses today and many more are still taking up the course.

Dr. Henry Sojor, president of the Negros Oriental State University (Norsu) and co-chair of the Oriental Negros Integrated Comprehensive Scholarship Committee, said the scholarship was open only to residents of the province and students can avail themselves of the program only at the Norsu or at Silliman University.

The committee has yet to finalize details of the program. But initially, Sojor said they agreed that a scholar must be financially incapable of taking up the course or that his or her family's income was not more than P120,000 annually.

The scholar must pass all the examinations of the university and maintain a grade of not below 85 percent.

Kho said the committee had yet to decide on whether to make a scholar who did not finish the course or pass the board examination reimburse the money spent by the government for the scholarship.

Vice Gov. Jose "Petit" Baldado, the committee chair, said the program was created amid the rising shortage of doctors in government hospitals in the province.

He said the scholarship would not be tainted with politics because the committee had agreed that no politician, including himself, would be allowed to become a member of the screening committee.

As suggested by Sojor, the screening committee will be headed by Dr. Victoria Dinopol, Norsu vice president for academic affairs, with representatives of the different provincial and national government agencies as members. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Doctors stop working in gov't hospitals

By Aquiles Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Some private doctors have decided to stop rendering service at the government-run City Integrated Hospital (CIH) here after the Commission on Audit (COA) said they should return at least P7.8 million in professional fees paid to them by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Helen Cailing, state auditor IV, earlier said that by collecting professional fee, at least 50 public and private doctors at the CIH had violated the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.

Cailing said that public doctors at the CIH were holding plantilla or regular positions while private practitioners were receiving honorarium for services rendered.

Dr. Alvin Alejandro, one of the 12 resident doctors of CIH, told reporters that the decision of the private practitioners, most of them specialists, to stop reporting at the hospital could affect the quality of service to patients.

"The patients would be the ones to suffer," he said.

Alejandro cited the case of neuro-surgeon Dr. Orlando Mirabueno, who, he claimed, had stopped accepting referrals from the CIH since the controversy broke out.

About 90 percent of doctors at the CIH have taken up nursing courses in preparation for their plans to seek employment abroad.

Earlier, CIH medical director Benjamin Pagarigan warned that delivery of services will be greatly affected if the doctors rendering services at the CIH resign en masse.

While some doctors stopped reporting at the CIH, some said they would only return the professional fees that the PhilHealth had paid them.

But Jamil Mamotoc, COA regional adjudication chief, said that even if the doctors refund the amount, they would still be criminally liable.

Pagarigan said prosecuting the doctors for receiving professional fees would be unfair because they have exerted effort, talent and skills, and that they deserve compensation.

12 colleges in Ilocos hike fees by up to 57 percent

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The Commission on Higher Education in the Ilocos has approved the request for tuition and other fee increases of 12 private colleges and universities in the region this school year.

CHEd officials said the schools filed their request for fee increases between February and May.

Celia Tactacan, supervisor in charge of tuition at the regional CHEd, said the increase ranged from 5 to 57 percent.

Those increasing fees this semester are the Bacarra Medical Center School for Midwifery and College of Nursing, Data Center College of the Philippines, Divine Word College of Laoag and Northern Christian College, all in Ilocos Norte; Data Center College of the Philippines and Divine Word College of Vigan, all in Ilocos Sur; Polytechnic College and Saint Louis College in La Union; and Saint Columban College, Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation, University of Pangasinan and Pangasinan Colleges of Science and Technology in Pangasinan.

The Bacarra nursing college and midwifery school will collect the highest tuition increase at 57 percent, or from P127.22 per unit to P220.83 per unit.

CHEd officials said they allowed the school to impose such amount because the last increase it implemented was five years ago. Its present rate was way below the average tuition in bigger schools, they said.

The University of Pangasinan has the lowest rate increase at 5 percent, or from P334.94 per unit to P351.69 per unit.

Tactacan said at least four colleges withdrew their request to increase fees because they failed to submit certain documents.

They were reconsidering the proposed rate increases of some schools following a directive from CHEd to review those that exceeded the 8.5-percent inflation rate cap set by the government, she said.

An official of the National Union of Students of the Philippines in Pangasinan said private colleges and universities had fast become "milking cows" of owners.

"Most private schools increasing their fees annually do not adhere to the 70-20-10 incremental proceeds from previous collections," said Carlito Marquez, Pangasinan coordinator of the NUSP.

He said the CHEd upheld earlier provisions to distribute collection proceeds at 70 percent for salary increases of employees, 20 percent for facilities, and 10 percent for school profits. *Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Kids will no longer clean schools, says DepEd

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Schoolchildren in North Cotabato do not have to toil under the sun anymore to make their school surroundings clean during the first day of classes, a ranking education official said.

In previous years, pupils regularly brought their cleaning tools and spent half of the first day of classes sweeping dirt, polishing chairs and desks and even cutting tall grasses.

But Dr. Gloria Mudanza, North Cotabato Schools Division superintendent, said the practice has already been banned "simply because there is no reason for them to do so (clean school surrounding)."

Mudanza said the Department of Education has undertaken "all the needed repairs and rehabilitation of every classroom of every school all throughout the division, including the cleanup of school grounds."

The activity was held under the Brigada Eskwela project, which was participated in by parents and teachers.

"There is no need for the children to be asked to work during the first day of the classes [anymore] because [everything] has been set up already. All they have to do is report to class and start another school year," she said.

But Mudanza said while major cleanup activities is no longer the task of the children, they would still be asked to perform "small jobs" after the classes.

Mudanza said any teacher caught forcing students to perform unreasonable errands on the first day of classes would face sanctions. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tarlac vice mayor, scribe feud over jueteng turns ugly

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The *jueteng* controversy in Tarlac has turned ugly.

Tarlac City Vice Mayor Teresita Cabal said she was suing Tarlac Standard publisher-editor Arvin Cabalu for libel over a column item alluding to the vice mayor as a *jueteng* operator.

On Monday, Cabal said she confronted Cabalu over the column and slapped him.

Cabalu, on the other hand, said he was readying charges against her for slander and abuse of authority. The vice mayor, Cabalu said, slapped him four times in the face and cursed and insulted him.

But Cabal said she only slapped him once.

The incident happened at 6:15 p.m. Monday after a legislative-executive hearing of Cabalu's exposé on the alleged illegal conversion of lands into residential areas in the city.

Cabal said it was Marco Mendoza, executive assistant of Mayor Genaro Mendoza, who first confronted Cabalu on the blind item on *jueteng*.

"When (Cabalu) replied in an arrogant manner, I did not hold my patience anymore," she said.

She claimed that Cabalu wrote the blind item to "retaliate" on the reprimand she gave him about financial transactions of the city government with his paper.

Cabal also accused the publisher of extortion.

Cabalu denied the vice mayor's claims.

"It was a blind item by (column writer) Magnolia de la Cruz. (Cabal's) name was not even mentioned," Cabalu said.

But Cabal said there were obvious references to her in the column because in the years cited in the blind item, 1996 to 1999, she was the only woman councilor in the city.

During those years, the item alleged the councilor operated *jueteng* on behalf of a former Tarlac representative.

Cabal, 51, said she was working as manager of the Rural Bank of Moncada at that time.

Cabalu said many officials and employees witnessed the slapping incident. "I felt very bad about it," he said of the humiliation he received from the vice mayor.

Cabal said she decided to "fight back" because "if I let this incident pass, my constituents would think I could not defend myself and other women."

She appealed for "responsible reporting" among local reporters.

Cabalu said he exercised restraint and responsibility and urged Cabal to stick to the issue, which was *jueteng*.

BIGGEST HAUL AP

Fish porters wait in line to have their tuna weighed at a fish port in General Santos City in southern Philippines Tuesday, May 31, 2005. General Santos is home to the Philippines largest tuna fish port and boasts as one of the world's biggest suppliers of fresh tuna helping the country's economy.

₱6M worth of lumber seized

BULAN, Sorsogon—Some P6 million worth of lumber were confiscated by government authorities here and in Gubat town on Tuesday afternoon.

A multi-agency team swooped down at Barangay Quezon in this town after being tipped off about the presence of illegal lumber being made into bancas.

Forester II Simon Cobaldez of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office said they found 29 large unfinished bancas and 69 wooden keels scattered in various locations at the barangay.

Aside from the keels and unfinished bancas, the team also discovered some 101 pieces of narra and lauan lumber.

The forest products were valued at P5 million by the team.

Another member of the team, forester Joel Ordonio said some of the lumber pieces have lengths of as long as about 15 meters, indicating that these could have come from Samar province.

"You can not find trees of that height anywhere in the province," Ordonio said.

The apprehending team was composed of operatives from the Philippine Coast Guard, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Special Operations Group, Naval Special Warfare Group, Naval Intelligence and Special Forces.

Meanwhile, some 83 narra flitches estimated to cost almost P1 million were also seized by elements of the Gubat Municipal Police Office led by Chief Insp. Paul Abay.

Abay said they recovered the lumber at Barangay Payawin, Gubat after a resident informed them about its presence.

No one has came forward to claim ownership of the lumber, he said. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

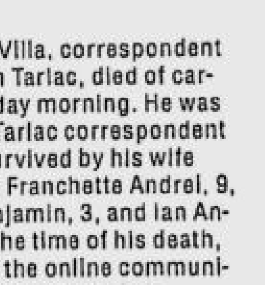
ROUNDUP

Mangyan grads organize

CITY OF CALAPAN—Mangyan graduates from different tribes organized themselves into the Oriental Mindoro Mangyan Educators Association on May 25, during their meeting at the Mangyan Educational Center in Bait, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. Their initial listing of graduates is 200. Since most of them are products of the Mt. Tabor Mangyan Formation Center under the late lay leader Casimira Villegas in Calapan, they intend to help back Mt. Tabor in order to assist more Mangyan students, said Ponyong Kadlos, president of the provincewide Kapulungan para sa Lupaing Ninuno. The association will also be a support group for each member, especially those unemployed graduates.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mangyan folk learn first aid



CITY OF CALAPAN—Nearly 100 Mangyans are now undergoing a training on first-aid treatment under Filipino doctors of the Rolling Clinic Program. They will be doing volunteer health work in their upland communities where donation boxes will be put up for their subsidy, said Ana Ingayan, a Mangyan midwife assisting German doctors in the rolling clinic.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

B. Villa; 31

TARLAC CITY—Benjie Villa, correspondent of the Philippine Star in Tarlac, died of cardiac arrest on Wednesday morning. He was 31. Villa was a former Tarlac correspondent of the Inquirer. He is survived by his wife Ruzzell, daughter Thea Franchette Andrei, 9, and sons Airus Jed Benjamin, 3, and Ian Anthony Benjamin, 1. At the time of his death, Villa was also editor of the online community news site TarlacNews (www.tarlacnews.net) and a founding member of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines-Tarlac. His body lies at the Funeraria Enriquez here. Interment will be on June 4 in Victoria, Tarlac.

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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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'New tutors' building will rise'

By Tina G. Santos

NOT EVEN a declaration from the National Museum stating that the contested Arroceros Forest Park in Manila is an archeological site can stop the city government from pushing through with the construction of a teachers' building in the area.

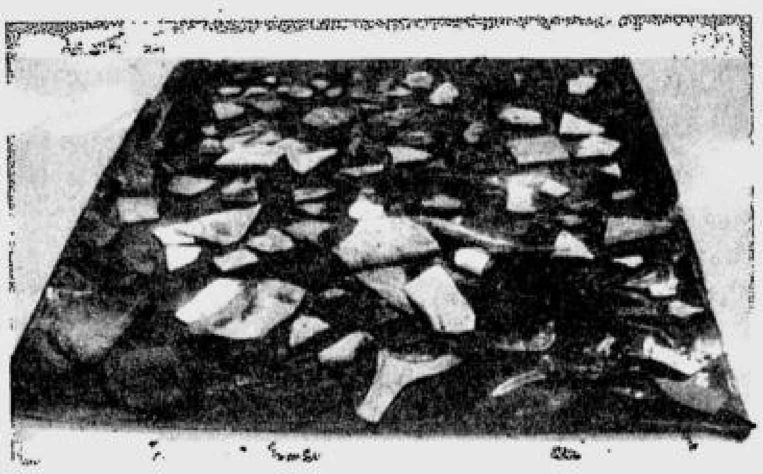
Speaking on behalf of Mayor Lito Atienza, who is out of the country, city legal officer Melchor Monsod said that they see no legal impediments that would stop them from putting up a two-story building for teachers.

National Museum curator Angel Bautista had said earlier that excavations in the area should stop after they found shards of stoneware jars, blue-and-white wares belonging to the Ming Dynasty, European wares and glazed ceramic water pipe and bricks while they were conducting an ocular inspection of the property on Tuesday. He said more of the same could still be buried in the area.

In April 2003, National Museum Director Corazon Alvina declared the area an archaelogical site, saying there were "strong archaeological indications and evidence that the park is rich in archaeological heritage."

Alvina said that this was based on archeological excavations made in nearby sites like the Mehan Garden, Metropolitan Theater Building and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) compounds which yielded significant cultural artifacts dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries. The same declaration was sent by Alvina in a letter to Winner Foundation, caretakers of the park.

But Monsod thinks the declaration is of little value. "A letter alone will not declare an area an archeological site. There has to be due process. Perhaps a resolution from a board duly constituted for this purpose will do. But not a letter, we're not giving much value to a letter.



MING and Ching dynasty shards found by children at the recent Flores de Mayo parade in the forest park, confirming the National Museum's findings that the Mehan Gardens/Arroceros Forest Park is an archeological site. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"It was not even an order (Alvina's letter). But even if it was, we will still study it before we react accordingly," Monsod said. "It would have been better if it was a court decision."

The city legal officer insisted that Winner has no sufficient legal basis to stop the city government from developing or taking over the park.

Under the MOA signed on Nov. 19, 1993, City Hall turned over the property to Winner which developed it as a natural environment area or forest park. The foundation prepared a 20-year forest development plan that would end in 2013.

"The MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) is the real issue here, not the findings of any organization or agency," Monsod said. "The City Council, which the mayor had presided over when he was vice mayor, failed to approve the MOA and is therefore non-binding."

Division of City Schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quinones, on the other hand, said that they were not given any restraining order asking them to stop the construction of the project.

"In fact, the court denied the petition for a temporary restraining order sought by the Winner Foundation. It means that the court saw no merits to restrain us from continuing our plan to improve the site," she added.

5 bank rob suspects nabbed

FIVE suspected bank robbers, including two police officers, were arrested by police barely two hours after they allegedly robbed an Allied Bank branch in Vito Cruz, Manila Tuesday afternoon.

The suspects were identified as PO1 Glenn Abardolasa, 35, PO1 Joselito Verdaflor, 29, Allan Lucban, 23, Charlando Bediones, 38 and Vicente Fagutao, 36. Abardolasa and Verdaflor are members of Philippine National Police Special Action Force stationed in Bicutan.

Ten men wearing fatigues and carrying high-powered guns had engaged bank security guards in a shootout Tuesday before they took off with a duffel bag believed to contain cash. The entire operation took only three minutes, indicating that the robbery was well planned, police said. A bystander, Daniel Moss, was hurt in the gunfight, sustaining gunshot wounds in his thigh. He was rushed to the Ospital ng Maynila for treatment.

Responding policemen chased the suspects who fled the bank on board a Toyota Revo and a Grandia Van, and caught up with them inside a compound in Balagtas, Pasay City.

The compound housed the offices of a security agency that reportedly employed three of the suspects.

Authorities recovered from a Nissan Frontier pickup parked inside the compound an unlicensed .45 caliber handgun, and a .9mm pistol and a .38 caliber revolver with expired licenses. *Miko Morelos, trainee*

SISTERS Leticia Ramos (left) and Ester Ramos-Balley (center) at the justice department yesterday: "Stand by me." REM ZAMORA

Leticia comes to sister's defense; Ester to submit counter-affidavit

By Nikko Dizon

LETICIA RAMOS, the youngest of the Ramos siblings whose lives sparked public interest as much as a dramatic soap opera, yesterday cleared her eldest sister of any involvement in the death of their middle sibling, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos.

"No, *wala nga siya sa kanyang pag-iisip. Palagi siyang* under medication. (She's not in her right mind. She's always under medication.)," Ramos said when asked by reporters if she believed it was possible for eldest sister, Ester Ramos-Balley, to come up with a plan to hire three men to scare Alicia.

Roberto Lumagui, the self-confessed leader of the burglary that led to the "accidental death" of Alicia, implicated Balley as the one who ordered the break-in.

Balley has been under psychiatric care for most of her life.

First time

It was the first time Leticia, who survived the April 24 attack inside their Makati City home, publicly defended Ester.

When the sisters appeared at the Justice Department for a preliminary investigation earlier, the sisters sat apart and Leticia never glanced at Ester.

At yesterday's preliminary hearing, Ester was lucid, according to her doctor, Rene Yat.

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco ordered Ester, through her lawyer, to submit within 10 days a counter-affidavit to Lumagui's accusation against her.

According to Yat, his patient had been on a remission period for the last four days.

While Ester was lucid yesterday and could have answered questions at the hearing, her lawyer Butch Suarez, said that she had not gone through the testimonies given earlier in the investigation.

Suarez said that Ester could understand yesterday's proceedings, and replied in the affirmative when asked by reporters if she could come up with a "wise defense".

Deportation orders for 4

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR Nigerians suspected to be members of a swindling syndicate dealing in fake United States dollars have been declared undesirable aliens and are now facing deportation charges.

The four were turned over to the Bureau of Immigration on Monday following their capture during an entrapment operation in Manila last week. They are also accused of attempted estafa and possession of counterfeit US dollars in the Manila Prosecutors Office.

James Matumba, Ikenna Agbaegbu Emmanuel, Ugum Igbunam and Henry Obina Nwani, will remain under the bureau's custody until their case is resolved.

The foreigners were arrested by the Western Police District policemen upon the complaint of hardware store owner Josefina Espino. One of the suspects allegedly ordered one container van of welding rods worth P8.9 million from Espino.

Later, Espino received a phone call from a man who identified himself as a Nigerian diplomat, and told the businesswoman that he had a package for her from the Nigerian finance minister.

The caller allegedly told Espino to pay US$1,800 for the airway bill.

Her suspicions aroused, she sought the help of police who immediately set up an entrapment operation, resulting in the arrest of the suspects.

'Mayor not true to his word'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

EVICTED informal settlers yesterday accused Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian of double dealing when they claimed he continued to implement a cease and desist order even after he publicly agreed to a proposal from President Macapagal-Arroyo designating a barangay in the city as a relocation area.

"We were fooled by Mayor Gatchalian in front of the President and before a television audience when he approved of Barangay Canumay as the relocation site," said Ador Palma, leader of a group of displaced residents who are again faced with the prospect of another eviction.

According to Palma, in a Pulong Bayan conducted by the President in Bignay, another relocation site in Valenzuela, the mayor had announced his approval of the property owned by Basque Corporation at R.Jacinto Street as a relocation site

Documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that the corporation had agreed to develop the area as a socialized housing project.

Palma added the mayor expressed his approval of the site at an open forum with the President. "But three days after, the mayor reprimanded me and told us that he could not allow us to stay," Palma added.

Gatchalian did not answer calls and text messages sent by the INQUIRER, and was not in his office when this reporter tried to to get his side. Marither Menia, the city's information officer said the mayor was attending several meetings that day.

Pedicabs have a novel use

By DJ Yap

QUEZON City will soon use pedicabs to collect garbage from narrow alleys and inner streets where dump trucks cannot go.

The city government has given over 15 pedicabs to selected barangays in District 1, in an effort to improve garbage collection and disposal.

The project is part of the "Simot-Basura" campaign led by Councilor Elizabeth Delarmente.

Under the program, garbage collectors will drive pedicabs with sidecars on narrow streets to collect garbage from areas normally inaccessible to big trucks.

They will transfer the trash to areas along the routes of garbage collection trucks.

At the turnover ceremony, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. reminded residents to use pedicabs for garbage collection.

He added that keeping the city clean was not only the responsibility of the government, but also that of the people.

All set for school

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MUNTINLUPA City government is launching its "Balik Eskwela" project today, distributing over P600,000 worth of school supplies to public school students.

The project is part of the city's efforts to maintain its number one ranking in the National Achievement Test (NAT) results last school year. Booths have been set up at the city hall quadrangle for distribution of school supplies to about 6,000 students from eight barangays.

Each package, which costs about P100, has five notebooks, two pencils and a box of crayons.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi told the INQUIRER yesterday that beneficiaries included 4,000 elementary and 2,000 high school students from depressed areas in the city.

Cameraman dies in hospital due to neglect

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT WON'T be long now before you see prominent members of the community doing policemen's work on a voluntary basis.

National Police Chief Arturo Lomibao and Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile agreed in principle yesterday to deputize civilians as police agents.

The agreement was reached during a breakfast meeting at Enrile's residence at Urdaneta Village, Makati. Present at the meeting, aside from Lomibao and Enrile, were some members of the PNP's think tank.

There will be further talks between the young Enrile, founding chair and former president of the Philippine Practical Shooting Association (PPSA), and Lomibao on the mechanics of taking in civilian volunteers into the police force.

Selection would be on a strictly invitation-only basis. People who are responsible gun holders who take part in PPSA-sponsored regular shooting competitions would be asked if they are interested in joining the PNP as deputy policemen.

They will not receive pay.

Enrile urged the PNP to invite shooters who regularly act as range officers or referees during shooting competitions. "These people are not only skilled in handling guns, they're mostly also responsible individuals," he said.

There are about 300 PPSA range officers throughout the country.

The plan to take in volunteers as deputy policemen would face smooth sailing if taken to the National Police Commission for approval. One of the Napolcom commissioners, Miguel Coronel is a retired police general who employed rich sugar planters in crime-fighting and anti-insurgency when he was provincial commander in Negros Occidental.

* * *

Employing civilian volunteers in crime-fighting may be new, but the government has successfully employed civilians in fire-fighting.

In fact, Chinese volunteer firemen are almost always the first to arrive at the fire scene.

Why? Because they're fighting to save their property from being burned.

In the same way, civilian police volunteers would be first at scene of the crime because they would be fighting to save their communities from criminals. They would be well-equipped and ready for the job.

* * *

The crew of "Kasangga mo ang Langit" television program on RPN 9 went to the hinterlands of Palawan two weeks ago to feature cave dwellers locally known as "taong bato."

Three days ago, their guide, Christian Madaeg, correspondent of radio station DWIZ based in Puerto Princesa, died of malaria. He was followed Tuesday by Arnold Tanare, cameraman of "Kasangga."

The show's co-host, Reyster Langit, was for a while in critical condition at a hospital in Los Angeles, California. He's on the way to recovery.

The disease that hit them was cerebral malaria, the worst type of malaria that affects the brains and other internal organs.

Had the illness been detected early, the two would still be alive today.

Tanare, the cameraman, was confined at the San Lazaro Hospital, supposedly staffed by experts in treating tropical diseases like malaria.

Doctors at San Lazaro knew about Tanare's condition, but they didn't do anything about it.

When Tanare needed a transfusion for his rare type A+ blood, the staff at DWIZ responded by calling on their friends for help. This writer made an SOS to the Marine Corps which sent a platoon of Marines to San Lazaro.

Our efforts were in vain because the hospital turned the prospective donors away. The reason? The nurses on duty didn't receive instructions from doctors to receive donated blood. The doctors were allegedly away partying.

More cops for studes' safety

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HANGING from the ceiling at the entrance of a small department store is a small cardboard with this message: "*Mag-ingat sa mandurukot* (Beware of pickpockets)."

The store stands on the busy corner Shaw Boulevard and Edsa, more popularly known as the Crossing area. Police say the place had become a lair of robbers who preyed on students especially at night.

The Eastern Police District has said it had already deployed additional policemen in the area. Police director Oscar Valenzuela said the increased police visibility would also protect new enrollees from the provinces.

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Batman Who I Am	It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.
Master Wayne	Master Wayne, it's been a long time.
Batman Fear	To conquer fear, you must become fear. A man fears most what they cannot see.
Batman Better Run	That's right --you better run...
Batman Who Knows	Who knows you're here? WHO KNOWS?!
Batman Poision	You've been poisoned. Stay Calm.
I'm Batman	I'm Batman.
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SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Corning Classic; 5:30 p.m.; ESPN—Check out third round action.
BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs – Spurs vs Suns, Game 5; 9 a.m.; RPN 9 (r-6:30 p.m.); Solar Sports (r-9 p.m.)—The series moves back to Phoenix.
TENNIS: 2005 French Open; 8 p.m.; Sports Plus—The women's singles semifinals go underway.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Obosa barges into Top 10 with leg win

By Marc Anthony Reyes

VIGAN—Erickson Obosa, riding aggressively in the final two kilometers, captured Stage 6 honors yesterday to barge into the Top 10 going into the crucial Baguio stages of Golden Tour 50@'05.

The 26-year-old Obosa of Go 21 clocked four hours 42 minutes and 27 seconds at the end of the 206.6-km flat and fast route from Lingayen, Pangasinan and advanced from 11th to eighth overall, 4:51 behind the leading Warren Davadilla of Colt 45.

Orly Villanueva of Vat Riders placed second for the day, nipping Michael Reyes of Colt 45 and teammate Michael Ramos as they pressed Obosa at the finish in driving rain.

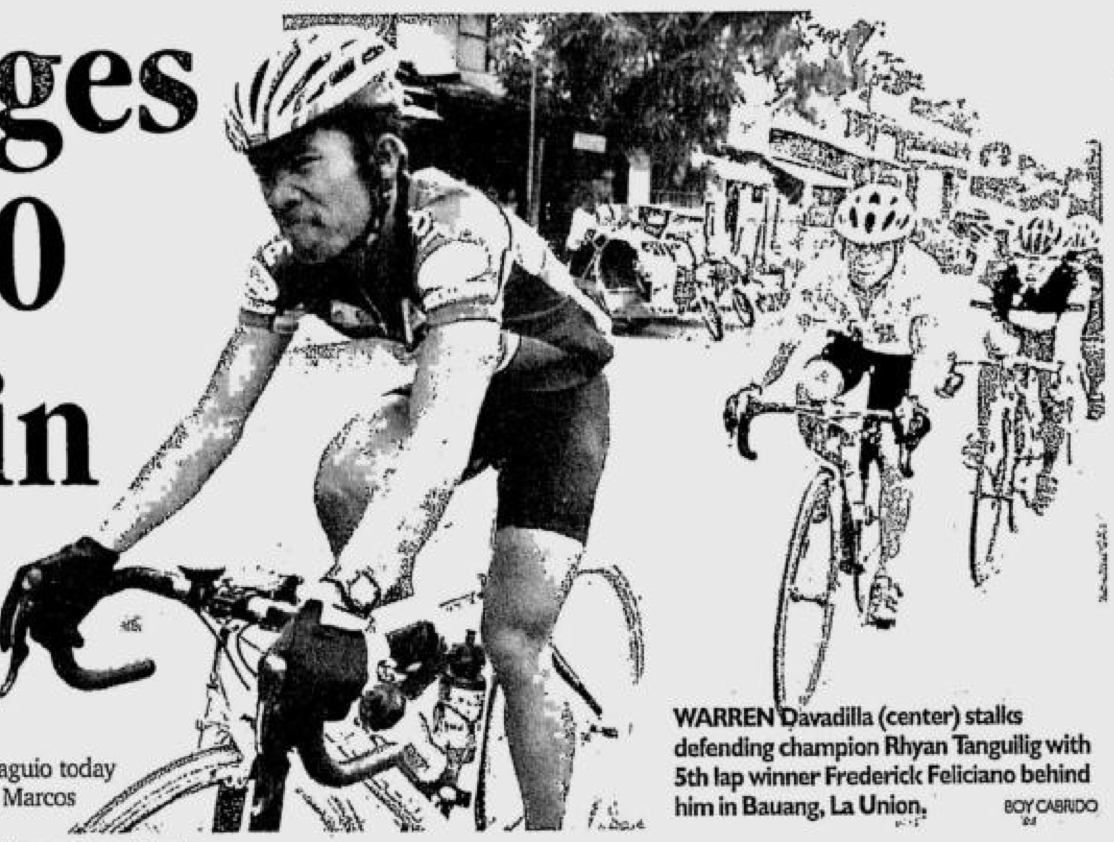
Davadilla, the overall leader after the second lap, came home with the 32-man main pack that checked in as the fourth group 29 seconds behind Obosa, who improved on his second-place finish in the Olongapo-Alaminos Stage 5 Monday.

While he easily retained his lead of 2:25 over Rhyan Tanguilig of PLDT, Davadilla will be severely tested when the remaining 81 cyclists go up to Baguio today in a 217-km drive via Marcos highway.

Obosa put himself in good position to move up in the standings considering that he's got the climbing legs as shown by his eighth place finish in last year's Vigan-Baguio route.

He was also in the top 20 during the 2004 Baguio-to-Baguio killer lap.

While Reynaldo Navarro of Customs held on to third place overall just 2:50 behind, Alvin Benosa of Touch Mobile advanced a notch higher to fourth (2:54) at the expense of Fernando Alagano of Metro Drug (3:16). Frederick Feliciano of Vat Riders remained at sixth (3:34) followed by Arnel Quirimit of Tourism (4:06), Lito Atilano of Metro Drug (5:00) and Santy Barnachea of Touch Mobile (5:11).



WARREN Davadilla (center) stalks defending champion Rhyan Tanguilig with 5th lap winner Frederick Feliciano behind him in Bauang, La Union. BOY CABRIDO

Colt 45 gains in Stage 6

VIGAN, Ilocos Sur—Colt 45 gained some ground on Metro Drug after the sixth stage of the Tanduay presents... Golden Tour 50@'05 that ended here yesterday.

Colt 45 put three riders in the Top 19 after the 206.6 grind from Lingayen to slice off some time on the team lead heading into the punishing Baguio laps today.

From 4:51.937 seconds down at the start of the day, Colt 45 is now just 3:23.188, after Michael Reyes finished third and Dennis Marana and Joel Dasalla checked in together with the main wave fifth for the race.

Guerrero Brandy sputtered, dropping to fourth in the standings, 5:04.092 off the lead. The VAT Riders jumped up to third, 4:47.598 adrift.

Meanwhile, Hot Babes Myles Hernandez and Jennifer Lee will be the main attractions in the street party event presenter Tanduay has lined up at Burnham Park after the race tomorrow.

Aglipay heads POC special cage body

By Musong R. Castillo

FORMER PNP chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay was appointed yesterday chair of a special Philippine Olympic Committee body that will assist the basketball working committee in seeking formal recognition from the international basketball federation (Fiba).

Aglipay, the vice-president of the Philippine Badminton Association, was tapped to head the POC ad hoc committee after a lengthy meeting of all stakeholders of basketball at the home of POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco last night.

The working committee, meanwhile, has been given one week from today to come up with a draft of its request for recognition from Fiba.

The working committee has taken over control of basketball in the country after the POC, in a general assembly, voted unanimously to suspend the Basketball Association of the Philippines two weeks ago.

The BAP got the boot for failing to fulfill agreements with the working committee regarding the composition of several national teams, particularly the RP team to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship set in Singapore this month.

Aglipay was also appointed the official spokesperson of the working committee.

The POC had formally informed Fiba and Fiba-Asia of the BAP suspension through a letter signed by Cojuangco.

The letter also sought the recognition of national teams to be sent by the POC working committee to international tournaments sanctioned by the Fiba.

Tall Iranians embarrass National five

By June Navarro

CHARGE this one to experience.

Pitted against a giant almost twice the size of Jimmy Alapag and a pair of hot-shooting imports, the RP-San Miguel Beer team yielded to Iran-Saba Battery, 85-75, in the FedEx-Fiba-Asia Champions Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Nationals just couldn't conquer the shaded lane with the 7-foot-4 Jaber Rouzbahani Darrehsa occupying ample space.

"He (Jaber) was really a big factor. He blocked and changed a lot of shots," said RP coach Chot Reyes after the National team of PBA players absorbed their first defeat in three games.

"If we had more time to practice, we could have prepared more set plays in defense and offense," he added.

Compounding the Nationals' woes were Iran's explosive reinforcements—Lorenzo Daynard Hall and Andre Doran Pitts—who combined for 41 points.

"It's a great learning experience. We lost but I'm not terribly upset," said Reyes. " I told them that if we're going to lose, now is the right time."

The Nationals will clash with defending champion Lebanon today at the Ynares Center.

In other games, Al Ryyan Qatar routed Syria-Army, 79-54.

Kuwait kept its hopes alive with an 81-74 win over UAE while La Segasse-Lebanon barged into the next round with a 94-75 victory over Kazakhstan.

The scores:

IRAN 85—Pitts 24, Hall 17, M. Bahrami 17, Veisi 7, Jamshidvand 6, Jaber 6, Eslamieh 5, Honardoust 3, Kamrani 0, A. Bahrami 0.

RP 75—Hontiveros 22, Adducul 19, Dela Cruz 11, Caguioa 8, Miller 5, Belasco 4, Ritualo 3, Villanueva 1, Reavis 1, De Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 19-14, 35-34, 59-55, 85-75

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

RECAH Trinidad is on leave. His column, Bare Eye, will resume in two weeks.

Saragosa leads after 68

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Upstaged by most of the lesser lights in Round 1, Boyet Saragosa torched the last eight holes with four birdies on the way to a four-under-par 68 yesterday and a four-stroke advantage over Omar Dungca halfway through the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Royal Northwoods Golf and Country Club here.

Saragosa, in a tie for fifth when he teed off after a 74, was still one behind Dungca after both bogeyed the 10th hole but the national training pool member leaned on his experience to pull away with a three-under card the rest of the way.

Saragosa put himself on track of earning a third straight trip to the finals with a 142 total, two under par over the well-maintained course, while Dungca, who was in a three-way tie for the lead in the first round, reeled back after a 74 for 146 in this opening leg of a five-leg eliminations series where the division winners advance to the grand finals at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club next year.

Jessie Balasabas shot the day's second best round of 70 and made the day's biggest jump from a share of 10th to level third with first round co-leader Anthony Victoria, the son of former touring pro Willie who struggled with a 75.

Top favorite Kim Chang Hoi, the reigning national grand finals champion, soared to a 78, marred by a double bogey on the 10th.

Kim was joined by Rufino Bayron (74) at 148 in the event also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Joseph Labajo, Jonel Ababa, Mario Labajo and Gerome Malaga took the last three slots of an exclusive 10-man roster battling it out of the top two prizes today and tomorrow. The division champion gets a Samsung C200 cellular phone while the runner-up receives an MP3.

Alabang bets score sweep

FORMER champion Alabang started with aplomb in the 2005 Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League, swamping Tagaytay Highlands, 4-0, in an away game even as Valley held Manila Golf to a draw in opening matches played over the weekend.

New recruit and recent club championship winner John Papa teamed up with Mento Briones to clinch the high-low point for the 2002 champions who completed the sweep when Francis Jimenez-Vic Guzman (alternate shot), Sengyo Kato-Edwin Arcilla (aggregate) and Iggy Clavecilla-Rolly Castro (scramble) also prevailed in their respective matches.

Also winning their initial outings were Orchard, Manila Southwoods and Wack Wack.

Drawing byes were defending champion Royal Northwoods, Riviera and Canlubang while the Eastridge-Forest Hills duel was postponed.

Wins by Yayi Escuadro-Kazuo Miyashita in alternate shots, Louie Garcia-Andy Maglipon in high-low and Andy Vasquez-Aaron Dimabuyu in aggregate powered Orchard to a 3-1 win over a visiting Mimosa side.

Wack Wack turned back Sta. Elena, 3-1, while Southwoods trounced sister team Sherwood Hills, 3-1.

Jungolfers off to 3 tourneys

THREE delegations are competing in various international competitions abroad with high hopes of scoring victories after going through a rigorous summer circuit organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Now competing in the 26th Asia-Pacific junior golf championships at the Ora Country Club in Jeju, Korea, are Tonton Asistio, Gino Bunyi, John Kier Abdon, Adrian Woo, Bambee dela Paz, Cyna Marie Rodriguez, Regina de Guzman, Wolen Superal, Dottie Ardina and Bino dela Paz. Gerry Handog is the head of delegation.

Nike is the official outfitter of the team made up of players who dominated the Samsung Jungolf Tour in various courses.

Simultaneous with the As-Pac campaign is the Jakarta Asean Plus Championships at the Damai Indah Golf and Country Club in Indonesia.

Leading the team is Marcel Puyat who is the defending champion in Class B, while Oscar Baldo is head of delegation. Playing in the event are Aaron Dimabuyu, Moshe Baldo, Paulina Sotto, Mia Piccio, Marcel Puyat, Linnel de Villa, Debbie de Villa, Lou dela Cruz and Gabby Villareal.

Next week, Carlos Fabregas, Matthew Manotoc, Regine de Guzman and Cyna Marie Rodriguez will fly to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 100Plus Power Asean Junior Open.

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Montaña seeks finals vs G Goose

GAMES TODAY (Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Montaña

ONE win is all the Montaña Jewels need to book a second straight trip to the finals.

But Granny Goose has the knack for pulling upsets so the Jewels are not taking them lightly when they clash again in Game 2 of the PBL Unity Cup semifinals at 4 p.m. today at the Pasig Sports Center.

"We have the momentum right now but we can't simply write them off," said coach Robert Sison of the Kornets, who almost pulled a fourth-quarter comeback in the Jewels' Game 1 victory, 64-58.

Magnolia Ice Cream, too, is anticipating a tougher match when they shoot for a second straight win over the Welcoat Paints in their own semifinal duel at 2 p.m.

"We can't relax at this time because Welcoat is a veteran team," said Wizards mentor Koy Banal. "We have to sustain our intensity."

The Paintmasters, along with the Jewels, earned one-game incentive for topping the elimination round. But the Wizards evened their best-of-five series after an emphatic 75-62 triumph in Game 1.

Kelly Williams again set the tone for the Wizards' big win, finishing with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Arwind Santos, the nimble Magnolia leader, was also a key factor with 11 points, nine rebounds, two steals and two blocks.

While Magnolia's frontcourt delivered, the usually formidable Welcoat quartet of Anthony Washington, Marvin Ortiguerra, Leo Najorda and Jay-R Reyes surprisingly lost their offensive spark.

Washington, for instance, finished with a single point after missing all his six attempts.

Welcoat's struggling offense was ill-timed, reminding Sison that his Jewels cannot not afford an off-night.

"Granny Goose is a dangerous team," said Sison of the sixth-seed who stunned Montaña and Welcoat in the eliminations, then overcame Harbour Centre's twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals.

"I'm sure they will make necessary adjustments in Game 2 that's why we have to be ready," added Sison, who will again turn to Alex Compton and Jon Dan Salvador, last conference's Most Valuable Player.

JR Quiñahan will again lead the spunky Kornets, but the 6-foot-6 Cebuano center will need the support of Jett Latonio, Alfie Grijaldo and Toti Almeda. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Pena, Sy return to Asian F3

TOP Filipino driver Dado Pena and Tyson Sy hope to pick up from where they left off when they return to the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong, China, for the second time this year for the fifth and sixth legs of the 2005 Asian Formula Three series on June 18-19.

With their bids ruined by a series of misfortunes that hit most Filipino drivers in the first two legs at the Batangas Racing Circuit last April, the Pinoy young guns bounced back with vengeance in the third and fourth legs of the series in Zhuhai on May 7 and 8.

In the May 7 race, Pena finished second behind overall leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia while Sy got back on track with a perfectly working car to finish third behind Mikola and defending champion Christian Jones of Australia in the May 8 race.

"We just have to give our best in the next races," said Pena, driving for Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia. "We should do it while everything is still close at this points. It will be harder to earn more points and take podium finishes when we're halfway through the series."

For his part, Sy, of Speedtech Asia, said: "Four laps down and there's more to go for us.

We should not take things lightly now or we would lose chances to improve on our standings later."

Mikola, racing for Fastron Racing with Threebond, leads the overall standings with 75 points on the strength of three straight victories. Jones, of Christian Jones Motorsport, is running second with 62 points.

Silenced in the fourth leg in Zhuhai, Irishman John O'Hara remained within sight of the leaders with still six laps to go.

WUSHU CHAMP: Eduard Folayang delivers a kick to the body of Percival Olosan en route to his gold medal triumph in the National Wushu Sanshou Championship.

Chinese bag Asian volley crown

CHINA saved two championship points in the fourth set and then wore down South Korea in the decider to pound out a thrilling 25-22, 23-25, 23-25, 27-25, 15-9 victory and rule the fifth Asian Youth Girls Volleyball Championships at the Mandaue City Sports Complex Tuesday night.

The Chinese needed to come back from a 2-1 sets deficit and from 14-20 in the fourth, riding the heroics of Fan Lin Lin and ace blocker Yan Ni to pound out the win.

Korea, with skipper Jeon Koung Kim on the firing end, earned two championship points after streaking to a 24-22 lead in the fourth set.

But China got a break from the referee who awarded a point from a spike that appeared to have gone out of bounds, drawing level at 24 before winning three of the next four points to win the set and forge the decider.

The Chinese put their acts together in the fifth and lost no time in seizing control at 12-6 before thwarting every Korean rally with solid defense.

La Salle spikers versus Lyceum today

LA SALLE tries to extend its winning run to six games and keep Lyceum winless as Shakey's V-League action resumes today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The reigning champion Lady Archers clash with the Lady Pirates in the 3 p.m. contest before Santo Tomas, off-form and under-manned, battles Far Eastern at 5 p.m. The Lady Archers are playing with unstoppable efficiency, coming into today's game fresh from a straight-sets conquest of the Tigresses on Monday. Already in their worst start in three conferences here, the Tigresses will be playing without ace spiker Joyce Pano, who went home to Iloilo to attend the funeral of her father. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*

Wilcon five claims third straight win

WILCON Builders, Philippine Star, Wilcon Builders and Chloe Lighting defeated their respective opponents last Sunday to claim their third straight victory in the men's division of the 4th Burlington Friendship Cup at the Phil Buddhacare Academy gym.

Wilcon Builders, which is mentored by Rommel Medina, whipped LA Gear, 125-52, while the Renato Recto-coached Phil. Star demolished Shocks XT, 104-82. Chloe Lighting of Eric Miranda outgunned Monica Publishing, 76-63, to lead the cagefest supported by Memory Magic, Jimac and Accel.

In the other games of the Burlington socks-sponsored-league, Memory Magic, behind the hot hands of Rand Chu and Gary Topacio, who combined for a tournament-record 20 triples, routed LLQC, 163-58, while PRC Couriers brought down GNC, 84-78.

In the Bio-Fresh ladies freethrow shooting contest, Phil. Star, GNC and LLQC notched their third win in as many outings to share top spot. In other matches, LA Gear and Chloe barged into the win column at the expense of Wilcon and Monica.

Burlington Cup is a special project of TEAMSports, a division of Total Events and Athlete Management (TEAM) Inc. for Burlington Industries Phils. Inc, the leading hosiery firm in the country and maker of Burlington, Bally, Puma, Camp, Slazenger and Baleno socks.

All-women taekwondo tilt starts June 5

THE COUNTRY'S leading female jins take center stage on June 5 with the staging of the 2005 Petron all-women taekwondo championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

No less than 500 participants, led by Athens Olympics veteran Marie Antonette Rivero, are expected to vie for honors in the event organized by the Philippine Taekwondo Association headed by POC chair Robert N. Aventajado.

Competition will be conducted in four categories—senior and junior women, mid-junior women and grade school girls.

According to organizing committee chair and PTA vice president Sung Chong Hong, athletes from affiliated chapters and branches throughout Metro Manila and the nearby provinces, including those from the military, have confirmed their participation.

This event, says Hong, will give female taekwondo practitioners the chance to show different but effective styles and techniques.

The event, which is also supported by Milo, Philippine Sports Commission, Petron and Accel, is part of PTA's commitment to help in the development of sports in the grassroots level.

Martial arts enthusiasts, particularly boys and girls who practice the sport of taekwondo, are invited to watch the competition, which starts at 9 a.m.

Bagong Sibol Boys display 9-ball mettle

FROM one battle to an even bigger war was how the brightest young talents of Philippine billiards described their participation in the recent Hope All-Filipino Billiards Open won by Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

But they did not regret taking the plunge against the sport's bigger guns.

Five topnotch youth players, whose age range from 20-25, from the TM Philippine 9-Ball Champions League, pulled surprising wins in the Hope event before the veterans showed the youngsters' need for experience.

The Bagong Sibol Boys of Ramon Tuason, founder of the TM 9-Ball Champions League and the man behind the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, made the "sweet 16" of the rich event, also claiming big names for victims before their luck ran out in the end.

"Our TM boys did exceptionally well," Tuason said. "We expected them to make it to the next phase but they outdid themselves, really."

Carlo Biado, playing out of Team Pangasinan, made the Top 12 by beating Johnson Vita, Allan Cuartero, Luis Saberdo, Tukaw Tanio and internationalist Gandy Valle (9-1, before losing to Antonio Lining (9-8) and eventual champion Pagulayan (9-2).

Jharome Pena, the TM Taco Master leading candidate playing out of Team Makati, also made it to the Top 12 by beating Gil Katamura, Benidiok Baay, Florencio Banar and Rusian Pertiza. Only his loses to the country's top cue artist Efren "Bata" Reyes (9-1), and Gaga Gabica (9-3) stalled his rise.

Elmer Kalaquian, of Team Pampanga, clinched a "sweet 16" slot, beating Jun Del Mar, Jundel Mazon, Napoleon Labrador, before losing to Luis Saberdo (7-4) and Godofredo Ducanes (7-6).

SPORTSWATCH

Laylo shares lead

NATIONAL Master Darwin Laylo scalped fellow NM Ronald Llavanes in the eighth round to finally catch the leaders in the 2005 Men's Rapid Chess semifinal at the Multipurpose Hall of Market Place Shopping Center in Mandaluyong City. The top 10 finishers in the tournament sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) will advance to the finals set on June 27-30.

Baragatan chessfest

THE BARAGATAN Open chess tournament unfolds on June 4 to 7 at the Provincial Capitol Building in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Confirming their participation in the event are IMs Barlo Nadera, Richard Bitoon and Luis Chiong IV, NMs DARWIN Laylo, Mirabeau Maga, Rolando Nolte and Jerome Balico and veteran campaigners Edmundo Gatus, Rodolfo Panopio Jr. and Allan Macala. "This is a yearly commitment of the provincial government to the sport of chess," said lawyer Romeo Seratubias, provincial administrator of Palawan and NCFP vice president. For details, contact tournament director NM Renato Seratubias at 0921-5589516.

NCA 7-Cock today

A MAD scramble for the title is expected in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7–Cock Derby championship round today at the fully air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. At least 10 entries are within striking distance of bagging the championship—Colorado Mulawin (Frankie Uy), Paniqui June 26 Balbina (Bebot Roxas), Mapalad Mulawin DTR JNS (Gerry Escalona), Binangonan Balbina (Gov. Ito Ynares), Firefly Thunderbird 13 (Jun Santiago), Mulawin VGB (Frank Berin), PEBR Complexor 3000 Mulawin I (Pol Estrellado), Mt. Panamao (Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina) and Wild Wing Sundance (Rep. Ronnie Puno and Boy Jiao). The 4-cock finals starts at 5 p.m. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.

Chot's chief trait

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I SEE them running. When was the last time I saw them do that?

I refer to the Philippine Team now playing in the FedEx Fiba-Asia Champions Cup.

In beating India and Kazakhstan in convincing fashions in their first two games, the Filipinos ran like thoroughbreds exploding at the bark of the gun. They were unstoppable, amazing as they chased loose balls and escaped from their men in blinding speed. Even if they lose the championship—God forbid—I give them credit this early.

Suddenly, everybody's young again.

Suddenly, everybody owns a pair of spring chicken legs again, including Nic Belasco, at 31 the oldest in the pack.

Suddenly, there's nobody walking anymore.

I used to see that run-race-run style only in the UAAP and NCAA, where action is almost non-stop you can hardly catch your breath yelling amid the frenzy of things.

It can only mean one thing: they believe in Chot Reyes.

Our professionals have faith in Chot Reyes, whose system seems to basically encourage our millionaires to retrace their running genes again.

Aren't many of our so-called PBA superstars the most stubborn when it comes to being whipped into line?

It now appears Chot Reyes has become the master drillmaster.

Incredibly, Chot Reyes has become the trigger to disabuse our minds about our PBA stars being incorrigible moneymen.

I've known Chot Reyes as a motivator, the required chief trait of one wanting to carve a name in coaching. He now ranks as one of the country's most in-demand company speaker on team building and employee enhancement.

All right, I am not about to be carried away. I can only hope it stays that way with our team—and even improve as the days go by.

I mean, here's to the success of an entirely new system that whips no less than 30 players into two lethal teams anytime of the year.

Remember, Chot Reyes, one of the most articulate coaches around, has this gargantuan job of producing a champion team that, hopefully, can advance to bigger tournaments in the years to come.

It is a system geared to keep the fires burning to regain lost glory in the sport dearest to Pinoys.

The Olympic dream will and should never die or there's no reason for us to resort to this ambitious plan to assemble the nation's brightest players for future battles overseas.

The best and the brightest can only be found in the PBA.

If only for that, the PBA governors deserve our applause. Finally, they have proved they aren't there merely for the money, 30 years after the PBA's birth in 1975.

The ongoing tournament pitting Chot Reyes' team against those from several Asian and Middle East countries is but a warm-up for our PBA-littered training pool.

Of course there's no coach who wouldn't covet winning all tournaments that he has entered into. But if I know Chot Reyes, just to be in the tournament is a big enough bonus for him. In fact, for his team to be also invited in the Fiba-backed Beijing event late this year, he would also consider that a big victory already.

Take note, GTK?

Just to see his team clash with some of the basketball powers present in Beijing, like Brazil, Argentina, Italy and China, would already amount to—win or lose—an invaluable lesson for his players.

Personally, I wouldn't mind if we lose the championship in the ongoing tournament in Manila, although it would help tremendously if we prevail.

Any crown stashed away, why it should always be cause for national celebration, particularly if it's won in basketball.

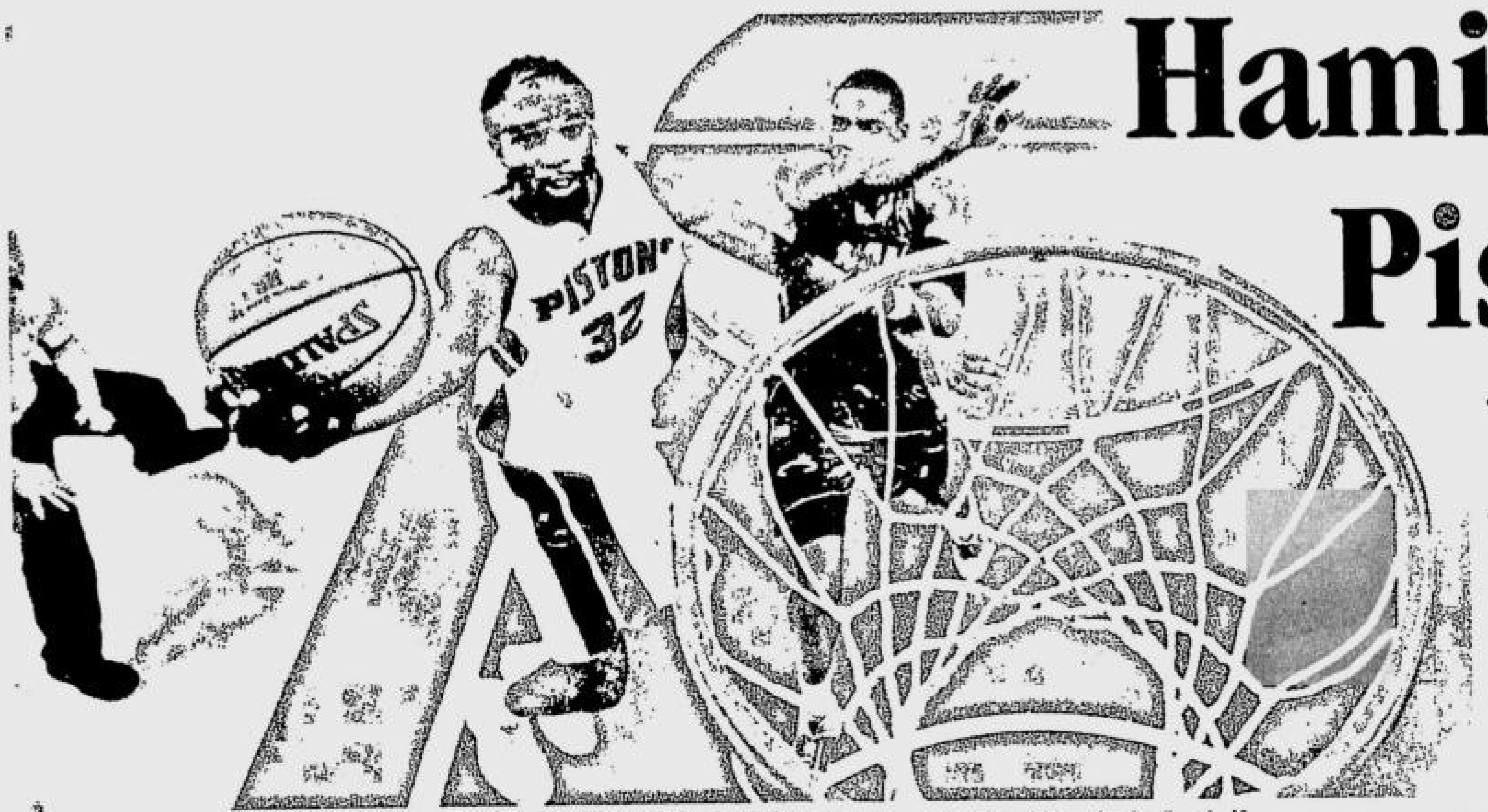
There are now Fil-Ams virtually killing themselves playing in the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup. I heard that Chot Reyes keeps reminding them about the importance of their stint in the national team: "Prove now that you are Filipinos! Play your hearts out! Spill your guts if need be!"

Yes, I can see them running. And that's a good sign.

***

FASTBREAK. Finally, Detroit, Chot Reyes' bet to be champion again, has showed its championship form yesterday. Its 106-96 victory over Miami to tie the Eastern Finals at two games apiece has brought memories of the Pistons sensational win over the Los Angeles Lakers last year to pocket the 2004 NBA title…Birthday greetings today to Dayong, an assistant of Shell coach Leo Austria.

Hamilton helps Pistons even East finals


RICHARD Hamilton (left) of the Detroit Pistons drives for a shot against Rasual Butler of the Miami Heat in the first half. AFP

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Larry Brown will return to Detroit to coach at least one more game. His defending champion Pistons made sure of it.

Detroit ensured that the Eastern Conference finals will last at least six games, getting a big performance from Richard Hamilton on both ends of the court to defeat the Miami Heat, 106-96, Tuesday night in Game 4 of their best-of-seven series.

Bouncing back from a 2-1 deficit just as they did in the second round against Indiana, the Pistons took the lead for good after Shaquille O'Neal got into foul trouble midway through the first quarter and knotted the series 2-2 heading into Game 5 on Thursday night in Miami.

Game 6 will be Saturday on Detroit's court in what could be Brown's last home game as coach of the Pistons.

The 64-year-old Brown has met with the Cleveland Cavaliers about becoming their president of basketball operations, though he continued to insist Tuesday that he would like to continue coaching if his health allows it.

In the Western Conference finals, San Antonio will try to wrap up the series Wednesday night in Phoenix. The Spurs lead the Suns 3-1.

The Pistons had their most dominant performance of the series after they lost Games 2 and 3.

Detroit did not have a single turnover in the first half, never let Dwyane Wade get into a scoring groove—thanks in large part to Hamilton's defense—and was never seriously challenged in the fourth quarter.

"We're in much better shape than we were after the other night. We all felt this would be a great series, and hopefully that's the case," Brown said. "We have to find a way to win one game on the road and take care of our own court."

Hamilton scored 28 points, Rasheed Wallace added 20, Chauncey Billups had 17 and the Pistons finished with six turnovers. The lopsided result even allowed little-used forward Darko Milicic to see his first playing time of the series—the final 93 seconds.

"For the night, their four main guys that they look to offensively, we didn't do a good job on any of them," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "Just a great, great game by them. A very complete effort on their part."

Earlier Tuesday, Brown was unusually defensive and testy in reacting to a report on ESPN.com that he already had agreed to become president of the Cavaliers.

"Why should I worry about Plan B when I'm worried about being healthy?" Brown said. "Why should I ever be thinking about that? I want to coach here. I want to coach. This is what I've done my whole life. I love this team." *AP*

FRENCH OPEN

Beauty vs beast in dream showdown

NADAL AP

FEDERER AFP

PARIS—Imperious and nearly impervious, Roger Federer plays the beautiful game. Muscular and macho, Rafael Nadal is, like the uncle who inspired him, "The Beast."

Federer is the top player, Nadal the hottest; and their straight-set victories at the French Open Tuesday set up a semifinal collision that virtually everyone knew was coming.

The only shame is that the duel between the Swiss and the Spaniard, the best players on the ATP Tour this year with 11 titles between them, is not for the championship.

Federer's 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-3 quarterfinal win against Victor Hanescu was as pedestrian as Nadal's 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 romp over David Ferrer.

The tournament, however, should have its fill of grand theater Friday when Federer continues his quest for a career Grand Slam and Nadal celebrates his 19th birthday on center court in his first major semifinal.

Nadal's uncle and mentor, former soccer star Miguel Angel Nadal, took pride in his nickname "The Beast of Barcelona." Rafael's first love was soccer and he inherited his uncle's dynamic style and athletic talent. Under the tutelage of another uncle—Miguel Angel's brother, Toni—Nadal transferred those attributes to the tennis court and quickly rose in the rankings after turning pro at 15—little more than three years ago.

Always bouncing on his toes or running with boundless energy, Nadal has won 22 straight matches, all on clay, and is seeking his sixth title of the year in his first French Open. No less an authority than John McEnroe sees Nadal as the greatest new talent since Boris Becker burst on the scene to win Wimbledon at 17 in 1985.

"To play the semifinal against the No. 1 is unbelievable for me, no?" Nadal said.

More than just a baseline basher, Nadal has shown creativity with drops, lobs and reflex volleys. His last loss came when Federer rallied from two sets down to beat him in the final on a hardcourt in Key Biscayne two months ago.

"I think I've learned very much how to play him," Federer said. "In the beginning I didn't really play very well at all, and he took advantage of that, totally. So I had to fight my way back. I came through, and in the end I felt the fitter player. He looked extremely tired in the fifth, and that kind of surprised me.

"Now, we're on clay. Rallies can be even tougher. But I thought (Key Biscayne) was a tough match. I think we can expect the same—not that we're going to play five sets again, but tough rallies and hard hitting."

Federer, 46-2 with six titles this year, plays a more elegant game than Nadal and is showing that he can win as easily on clay as he has on other surfaces. *AP*

Comeback gals Pierce, Henin Hardenne gain semis

HENIN-HARDENNE: Better than ever. AP

PARIS—Mary Pierce took a moment to absorb what was happening on center court, because she knew that one day it would make a beautiful memory.

The crowd was chanting "Ma-ry." She was beating top-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the French Open quarterfinals. And all the while, she felt some magic was on her side.

When she won—in a mere 1 hour, 21 minutes—she could barely believe it.

"I'm really shocked," a beaming Pierce said. "I beat the No. 1 in two sets."

Pierce's 6-3, 6-2 win over Davenport on Tuesday ushered her into her first Grand Slam semifinal since winning Roland Garros in 2000.

Getting back to this stage at the French Open hasn't been easy for Pierce, who struggled for years to regain her form after a series of injuries. She wanted to savor it.

"I took a moment out there on court," said Pierce, who was raised in Florida but claims French citizenship. She glanced at the scoreboard and the speedometer registering her service speed. She allowed herself to revel in a distraction.

"I just said, 'This is going to make for good memories later on in my life,' so I just really wanted to appreciate that moment," she said.

Justine Henin-Hardenne thought much the same thing in her 6-4, 6-2 quarterfinal win over No. 2-seeded Maria Sharapova.

It was the 22nd consecutive win on clay for Henin-Hardenne, the 2003 champion and No. 10 seed. And it was further proof of the Belgian's comeback from illness and injury.

"My game is probably better than it has ever been," said Henin-Hardenne, who returned in March from a seven-month layoff because of a blood virus and knee injury. The absence has given her a new perspective on tennis.

"I feel very lucky I can play, and each shot I hit, it's just such a great pleasure," Henin-Hardenne said. "I enjoy every single moment, each point."

Henin-Hardenne faces seventh-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia in the semifinals Thursday. Petrova advanced by beating 17-year-old Serb Ana Ivanovic, 6-2, 6-2.

Pierce will play another Russian, Elena Likhovtseva, who advanced to a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time in her 12-year career by beating 15-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

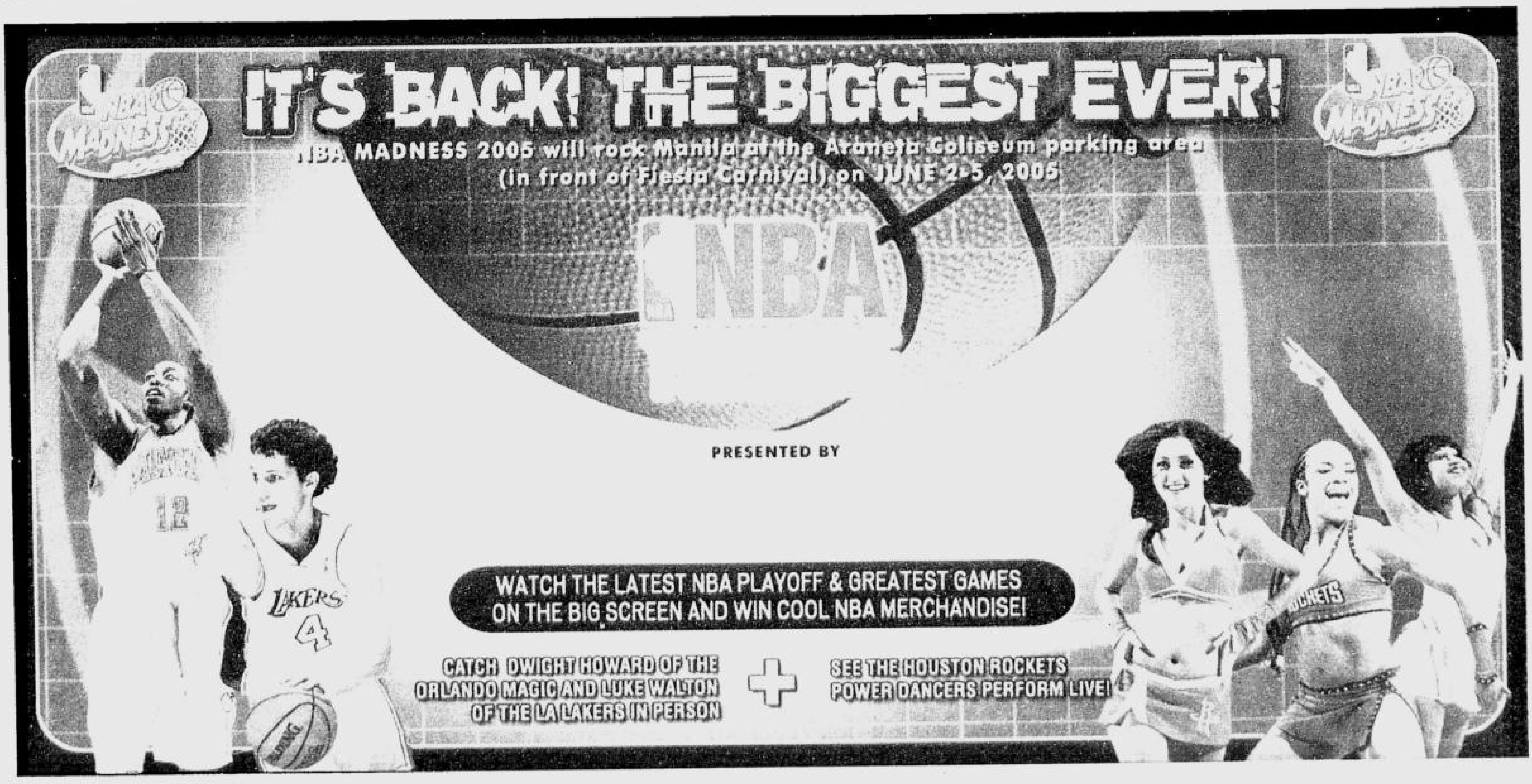
Likhovtseva, seeded 16th, has never been beyond the third round before in 10 previous appearances at Roland Garros.

"I'm ready for a challenge. I'm ready for a fight," said Pierce, who showed a lot of fight in her win over Davenport.

Pierce raced to a 4-0 lead, ripping winners that even caught her by surprise.

"They were just going in," Pierce said. "I even shanked a ball and it just went deep for a winner. I was like, 'Wow, OK, this is my day. Take advantage of this.'" *AP*

PIERCE: Really shocked. AP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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

June 3, Fri. 16th FIBA ASIA CHAMPIONS CUP Games Start: 10:15am, 12:30pm 2:45pm, 5:00pm 7:15pm	NBA MUSIC & MADNESS June 4, Saturday, 8pm
June 5, Sun. 16th FIBA ASIA CHAMPIONS CUP Games Start 12 30pm 2 45pm 5 00pm 7 15pm	HILLSONG - REUBEN MORGAN LIVE June 11 Sat 4-6pm Worship Seminar 7-9pm Worship

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Tickled pink!

THE THIRD International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, also known as the Pink Film Festival, kicks off the celebration of Gay Pride Month in the country with the screening of movies that "highlight the human and health rights of this marginalized sector."

Set June 3 to 12 at the Gateway in Cubao, Quezon City, the festival is mounted by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, in cooperation with the Mowelfund Film Institute and ProGay.

Opening film is Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala [Stray Cats]," based on Jun Lana's Palanca-winning play.

Also to be screened is "F-17" from Taiwan, a "feel-good flick with cute Chinese boys."

Premiere

Premiering in the fest is the appropriately titled "Touch of Pink," a romantic comedy set in London.

But the centerpiece of the exhibition are the politically charged movies: "It's Elementary," on gay bashing and bullying seen through the eyes of kids; "That's a Family," with children speaking candidly on the ever-changing definition of family, and "One Wedding and a Revolution," on the first-ever same sex marriage celebrated by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004.

For more information, call: Mowelfund, 410-4567, 727-1915 local 203.

Or visit the web site at www.pinkfilmfest.cjb.net or e-mail: nad@pacific.net.ph or progay@yahoo.com.

Massive all-star concert

LONDON—A who's who of popular music including Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, U2, Madonna and Prince are scheduled to perform on July 2 in a massive successor concert to the Live Aid charity event of 1985, according to a newspaper report Tuesday (yesterday in Manila).

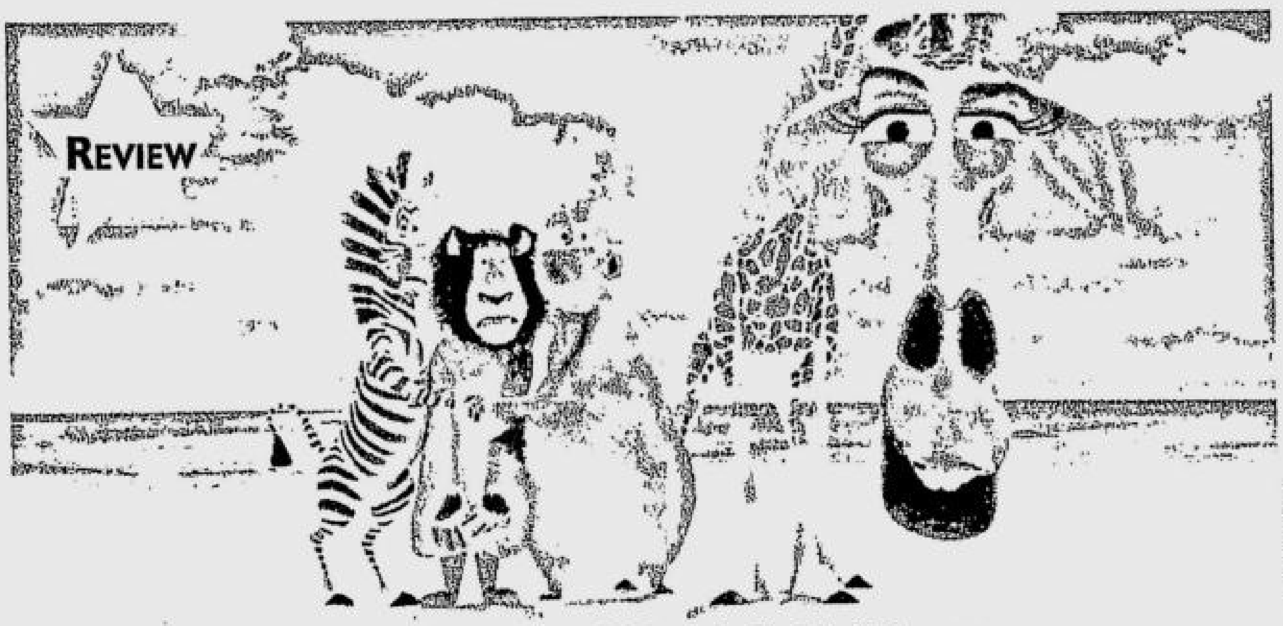
The event was to be announced by Irish pop star-turned development activist Bob Geldof in London, Britain's Daily Telegraph reported.

It said several stars had been confirmed for the event, which will take place simultaneously in London, Philadelphia and, possibly, other countries worldwide.

The concert will be called "Live 8," and is timed to take place just before the July 6-8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, of leaders from the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations' club.

Aligning itself with the Make Poverty History campaign, the concert intends to raise awareness rather than money.

AFP



ROPEOFSILICON

MARTY the Zebra, Alex the Lion, Gloria the Hippo and Melman the Giraffe in Madagascar

Hyperactive animals will charm kids

NEW YORK—"Make it fresh," Alex the Lion advises his best buddy, Marty the Zebra, when trying to entertain crowds at the Central Park Zoo.

Those are words of wisdom the makers of "Madagascar" should have followed, too.

The latest computer-animated extravaganza from DreamWorks is certainly an improvement over last year's desperate "Shark Tale," but it's not as crisp start-to-finish as the "Shrek" movies. And it falls into the same trap as so many films of this genre, with the notable exception of "The Incredibles:" In an effort to seem hip and high-energy with a litany of pop-culture references, the writing (by a team of four) instead comes off as hackneyed and lazy.

In the span of a 30-minute television show like "The Family Guy," this approach can be hilariously effective. Over an entire feature film—even one that's just 86 minutes long—it feels like a stretch.

Jokes for adults

Some of the gags from director-writers **Eric Darnell** ("Antz") and **Tom McGrath** ("The Ren & Stimpy Show") are admittedly laugh-out-loud funny. Others fall flat. All of them, of course, are intended for adults and will sail right over the tiny heads of the kids, who will be captivated by the colorful, hyperactive characters, no matter what.

The "Madagascar" animals are more animated than the animated movie creatures we've seen over the last few years. That's because they harken to the slapstick style of those old Looney Toons cartoons— a technique known as squash and stretch, which was easy to do by hand but is- much harder to do with computers.

The backgrounds, meanwhile, are truly wondrous, from an evocatively detailed recreation of Grand Central Terminal to waves that lap on the beach so convincingly, you want to stick your toe in the water.

'Star Wars,' 'Madagascar' favorites in US this week

LOS ANGELES—Estimated weekened ticket sales for at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box office tracker.

1) "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," $70.75 million

2) "Madagascar," $61 million

3) "The Longest Yard," $60 million

4) "Monster-in-Law," $11.1 million

5) "Kicking & Screaming," $6.6 million

6) "Crash," $6 million

7) "The Interpreter," $2.6 million

8) "Unleashed," $2.3 million

9) "Kingdom of Heaven," $2.2 million

10) "House of Wax," $1.6 million

WIREIMAGE

PARIS Hilton with fiance Paris Latsis

A tale of two cities

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—Paris has met Paris and they're going to marry.

People Magazine reported Monday that Hilton hotel chain heiress and glamour girl **Paris Hilton** has accepted a marriage proposal from Greek shipping heir **Paris Latsis**, her boyfriend of five months.

According to the report, the 27-year-old Latsis proposed to 24-year-old Hilton on Wednesday, when she returned home after a three-week trip to Europe, where she promoted her movie "House of Wax" and her new fragrance.

"He's the one," Hilton told People earlier this month. "I want to have kids in the next two years." *AFP*

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1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:30, 3:05, 5:40
8:15, 10:50

2 MADAGASCAR
10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25
7:35, 10:20
GP

3 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
11:05, 1:50, 4:40
7:30, 10:20
GP

4 SIN CITY
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 10:50
R-13

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MADAGASCAR GP 12:00.2:00.4:00.6:00.8:00	MADAGASCAR GP 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00
SIN CITY R13 12:30,3:00,5.30,8:00,10:30	SHUTTER R13 1:05,3:15.5.25,7:35,9:50	A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13 1:10,3:30,5.50.8:10,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
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starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME	1 UNLEASHED	1 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
4 SIN CITY	2 SHUTTER	2 Rental Reservation
5 UNLEASHED	3 Under Renovation	Buy 3 Movie Tickets And Win Jollibee Products! At Metropolis Alabang and Starmall Edsa
Star Model Search Grand Finals June 4 - Saturday Metropolis Star Alabang	4 Under Renovation	
	5 SIN CITY	
	6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME	

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CINEMA 1 COACH CARTER PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
CINEMA 2 SIN CITY R13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
CINEMA 4 STARWARS III - GP 1:15, 4:10 Premiere Night MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 - 8pm
CINEMA 5 MADAGASCAR - GP 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45 Premiere Night MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 - 8:30 PM

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June 3, 2005 ANTON DIVA & CHOCOLEIT 8PM
JUNE 9, 10, 16 & 17 GARY V. @ 22 8PM
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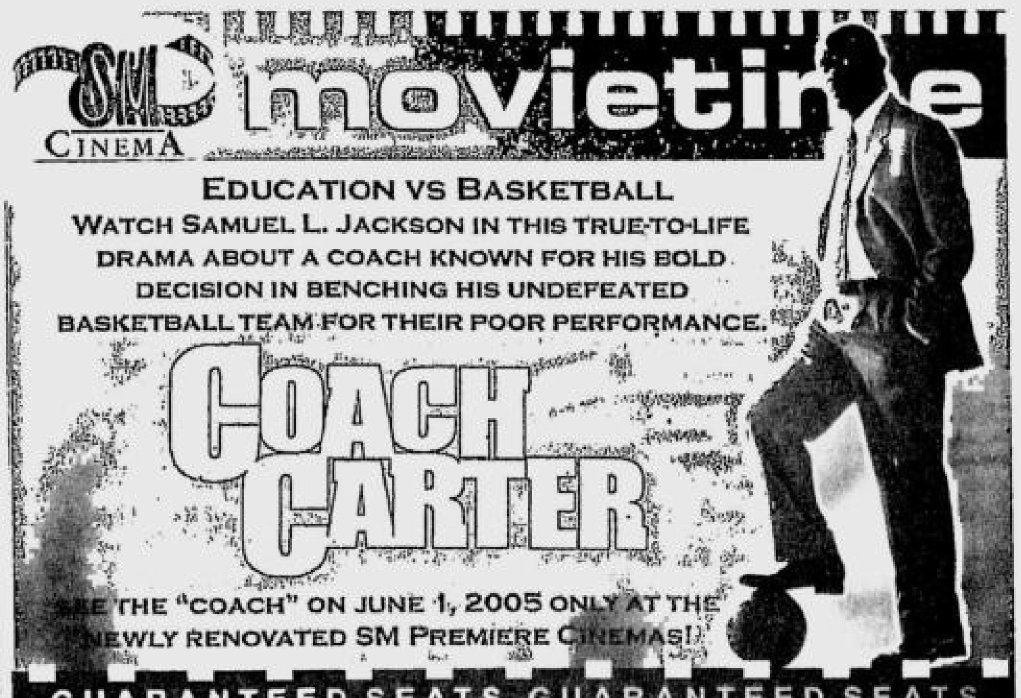

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2 MADAGASCAR / CINEMA 2
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the megamall cinema 1
HOUSE OF WAX
ADVANCE SCREENING
MR. & MRS. SMITH
633-1901

the cebu cinema 1
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
SIN CITY
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III

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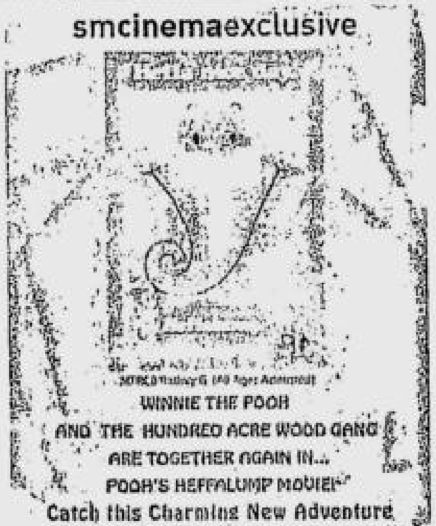

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SIN CITY
4 LA VISA LOCA
COACH CARTER
6 SHUTTER
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 STARWARS: EPISODE III
11 TRUMPETS
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city fairview
1 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 HOUSE OF WAX
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STARWARS EPISODE III
LA VISA LOCA
A LOT LIKE LOVE
SIN CITY
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 UNLEASHED
COACH CARTER
12 SHUTTER

sm north edsa
SIN CITY
2 MADAGASCAR
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 STARWARS EPISODE III
8 SHUTTER

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1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 ANG LAGUSAN
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 MADAGASCAR
6 UNLEASHED
7 COACH CARTER
8 SIN CITY
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 BIKINI OPEN
11 SHUTTER
12 LA VISA LOCA

sm city sta mesa
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 SIN CITY
4 SHUTTER
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 UNLEASHED
8 COACH CARTER
9 A LOT LIKE LOVE
10 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city southmall
STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
SIN CITY
5 ARE WE THERE YET
LA VISA LOCA
COACH CARTER
8 UNLEASHED
MADAGASCAR
10 SHUTTER

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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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LA VISA LOCA
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

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SIN CITY
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

LUZON

sm city pampanga
STARWARS: EPISODE III
MADAGASCAR
JACKET
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE
SAY THAT YOU LOVE

sm city bacoor
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 MADAGASCAR
3 UNLEASHED
4 SIN CITY
5 STARWARS; EPISODE III
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 SHUTTER
8 LA VISA LOCA

sm city dasmariñas
HOUSE OF WAX
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
A LOT LIKE LOVE
MADAGASCAR

sm city baguio
STARWARS: EPISODE III
MADAGASCAR
3 GUESS WHO
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

sm city marilao
1 STARWARS;EPISODE III
2 SHUTTER
3 MADAGASCAR
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

sm city lucena
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
GUESS WHO
MADAGASCAR

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RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 GUESS WHO
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

VISAYAS

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KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
SIN CITY
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 MADAGASCAR
STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 LA VISA LOCA
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
9 UNLEASHED

sm city iloilo
1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 RESERVED
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 STARWARS: EPISODE III
RESERVED
THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

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STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 ONG BAK
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 MADAGASCAR
UNLEASHED

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1 MADAGASCAR
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 GUESS WHO

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1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX
2 SIN CITY
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 COACH CARTER
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 MADAGASCAR
7 HOUSE OF WAX
8 LA VISA LOCA
9 UNLEASHED
10 SHUTTER

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 SAY THAT LOVE ME
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 SIN CITY
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 UNLEASHED
6 MADAGASCAR
7 STAR WARS Episode III

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MADAGASCAR
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 SHUTTER
4 STAR WARS Episode III
5 SIN CITY
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 UNLEASHED
8 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 COACH CARTER
4 UNLEASHED
5 SIN CITY
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

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1 SIN CITY
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR

CITISQUARE MALABON
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1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 SIN CITY

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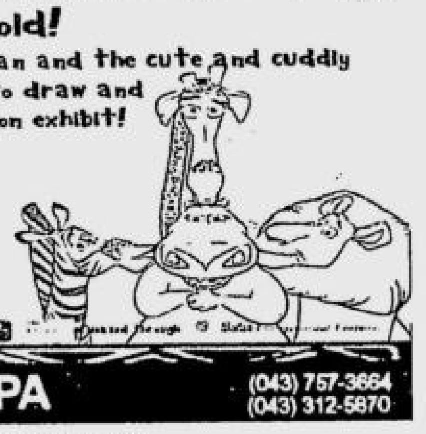
1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR

MADAGASCAR art workShop



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2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 STAR WARS Episode III

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2 LA VISA LOCA
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 HOUSE OF WAX

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2 LA VISA LOCA
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 STAR WARS Episode III

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2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 UNLEASHED
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 MADAGASCAR

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4 MADAGASCAR
5 STAR WARS Episode III
6 THE JACKET

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3 MADAGASCAR
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 THE SHUTTER	3 THX SIN CITY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 COACH CARTER	5 HOUSE OF WAX	6 MADAGASCAR	7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 SIN CITY					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX A LOT LIKE LOVE GUARANTEED SEATS	3 COACH CARTER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MADAGASCAR GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SIN CITY GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MADAGASCAR	2 STAR WARS EP. 3	3 A LOT LIKE LOVE	4 COACH CARTER	5 SIN CITY		
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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⑦ Sin City

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EVENTS! EVENTS!

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Album Promo Tour
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Auditions for play on Pope John Paul II

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ACTORS and actresses of all ages who admire the holy life and significant works of the late **Pope John Paul II** are invited to audition for a wide range of roles in the new English-language play, "Be Not Afraid—John Paul II," a special presentation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which will go on a performance tour starting this August.

The auditions will be held at 9 a.m. this Sunday, June 5, at the Office on Women, CBCP Compound, Intramuros Call 527-1925, 527-8031, 780-9210 or 0919-2065424 for details.

Double purpose

"Be Not Afraid" is being staged to raise funds for the CBCP's projects, and to dramatize the instructive highlights of the late Pontiff's exemplary life, for audiences to learn valuable lessons from, and to be edified by.

It is being presented under the artistic supervision of the same team of theater artists who have produced memorable religious productions like "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus?" and "padre Pio," which have been performed to popular and critical acclaim all over the country.

> It will be a special presentation of the CBCP

Love in return

The late Pontiff loved the Philippines, and is loved by Filipinos in turn, so the CBCP's play on him should be warmly received and appreciated by schools, parishes and lay religious organizations interested in using theater and media for evangelizing purposes, and to pay particular tribute to Pope John Paul II, whose pontificate has been hailed as one of the most significant periods for the Catholic Church in the preceding century.

'Family in Focus'

The Taal Heritage Foundation of Taal, Batangas' "Family in Focus" series will hold a tribute to Mrs. **Conchita de las Alas-Lualhati**, a prominent Taaleña, on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary on Friday, June 3, at 2 p.m., at the Escuela Pia in Taal.

Opening night: 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith'

Brad Pitt separated from his wife **Jennifer Aniston** while he was shooting "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" with **Angelina Jolie**, so show biz observers concluded that Brad had fallen for Angelina's curvy and lippy charms. Both stars have resolutely debunked the rumors but, true or not, they've already made their new film a hot commodity.

Want to know what the fuss is all about? Star Movies' "Opening Night" show at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 5, will focus on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," with host **Terence Yu** presenting exclusive scenes from the sexy and action-packed adventure film.

Pitt and Jolie play John and Jane Smith, an ordinary suburban couple with an extraordinary secret: they are in fact legendary assassins working for competing organizations. But their separate lives are about to collide when they find out that their next mission is to kill each other!

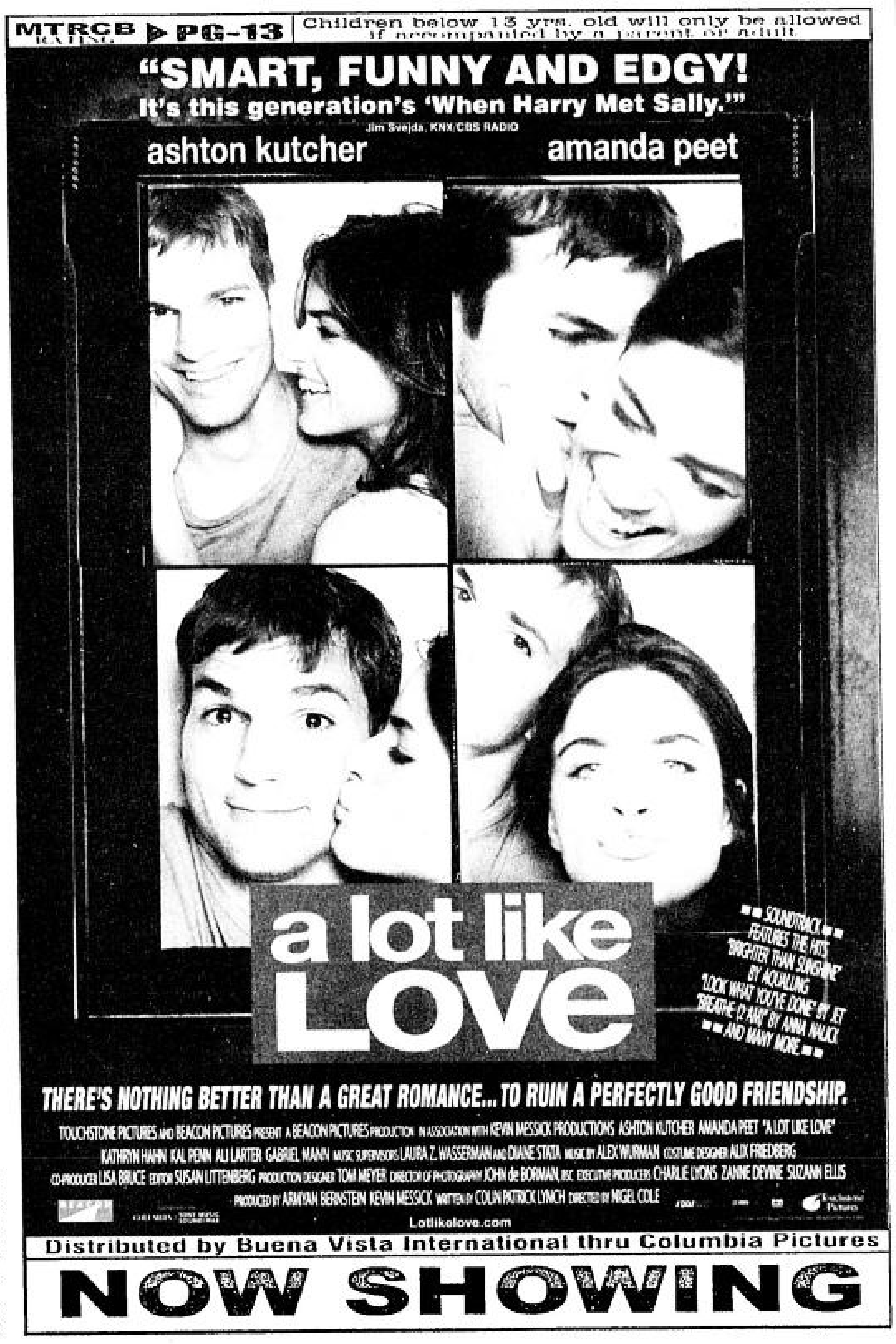
Vince Vaughn and Adam Brody also star. Repeat airdates are on June 6, 7, 10 and 12.

'Shut Up and Kiss Me'

What would you do if the girl of your dreams is being guarded by a Mafia boss? That's the situation in which **Brad Rowe** finds himself in "Shut Up and Kiss Me."

The high-energy sex comedy's female lead is **Krista Allen**, Pamela Anderson's back-to-back beauty in "Baywatch." She plays Tara, whose uncle is the Mafia boss charged to protect her from dudes like Pete (Rowe).

Also playing a stellar role is the similarly stunning **Kristin Richardson** (as Jessica), who costarred with **Mark Wahlberg** in "Rockstar." In the film, she mesmerizes a dude named Ryan (**Christopher Barnes**).


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"SMART, FUNNY AND EDGY! It's this generation's 'When Harry Met Sally.'"
Jim Svejda, KNX/CBS RADIO
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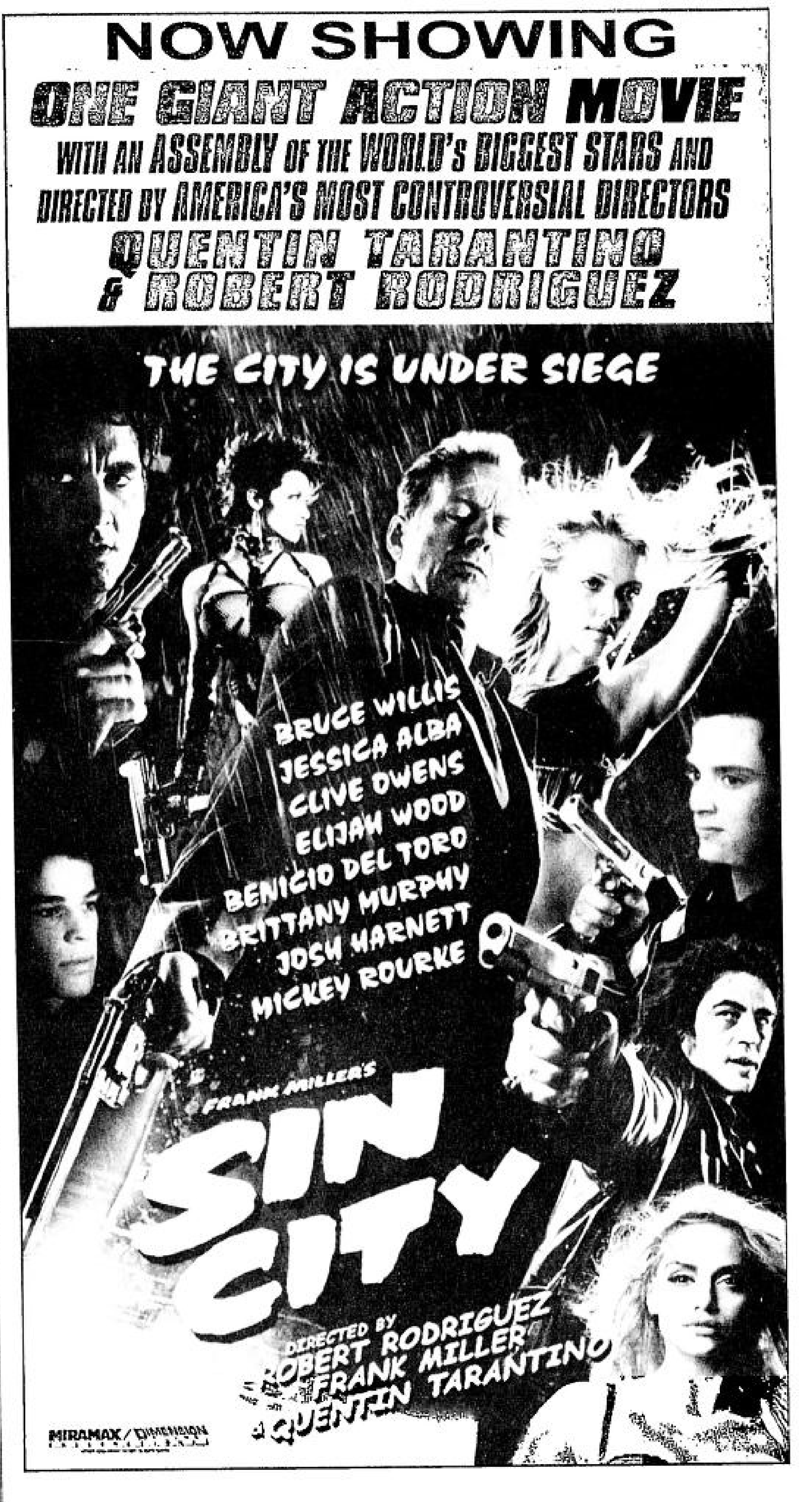
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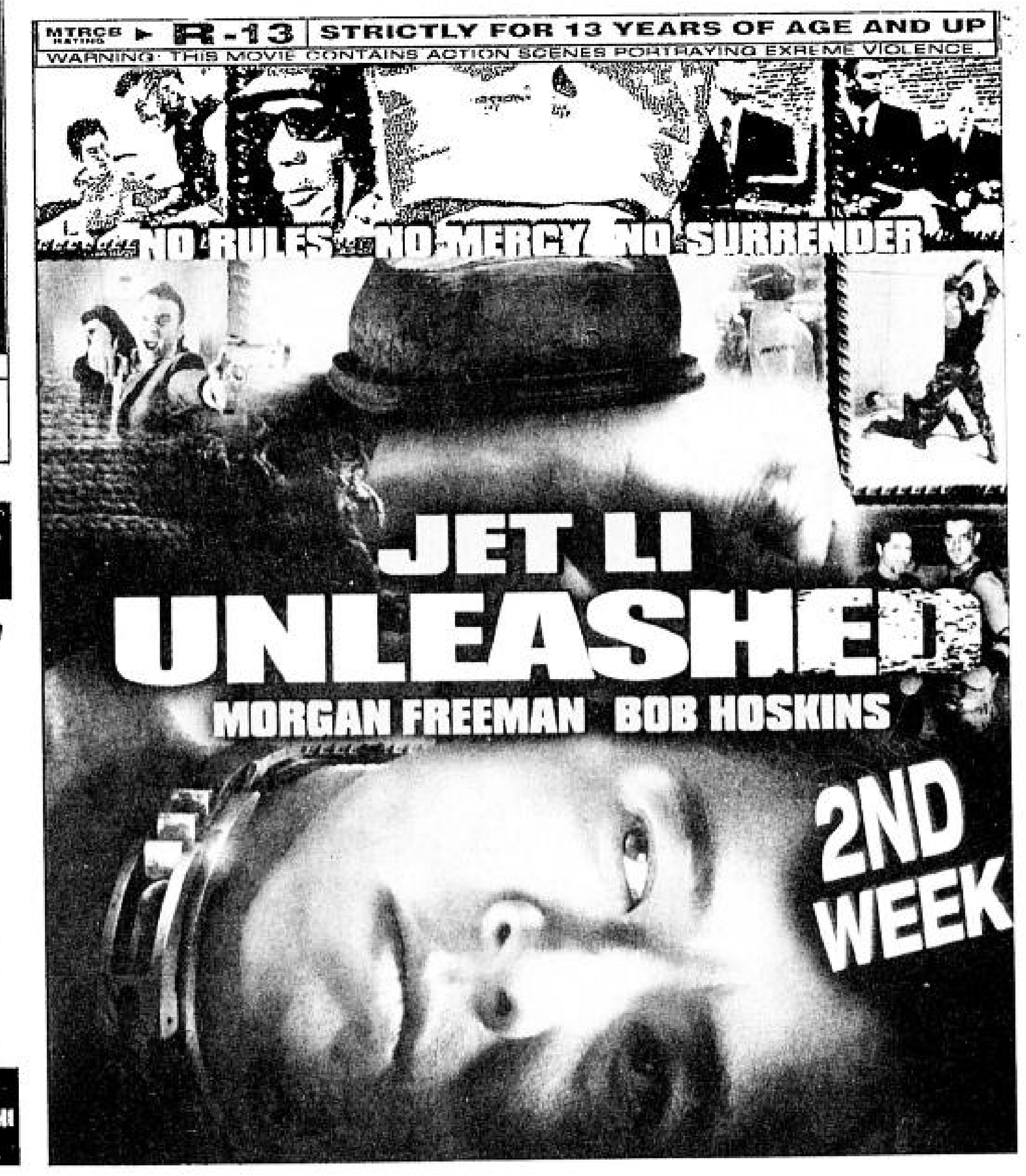
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2ND WEEK

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THE HOTTEST FILM EVENT!!!
TOMORROW!
@ 7:00pm
MGA PUSANG GALA
by Ellen Ongkeko
Starring: Ricky Davao Irma Adlawan
A pulp romance writer shares with his fag hag neighbor a stray cat, a duplex, a rose garden and fantastic stories.
Next Attraction
June 4, 6:30pm
FORMULA 17
by Dj Chen Yin-Jung (Taiwan)
A gay teenager in search of true love in the big city.
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SHANG CINEPLEX

① A LOT LIKE LOVE
MTRCB PG-13
11:25, 2.00, 4.35 7 10, 9 50

③ SIN CITY
MTRCB R-13
11'10,1 50,4 30 7'10,9.50

② MADAGASCAR
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10 00

④ STAR WARS III
MTRCB GP
1.30, 4 20, 7:10, 10 00

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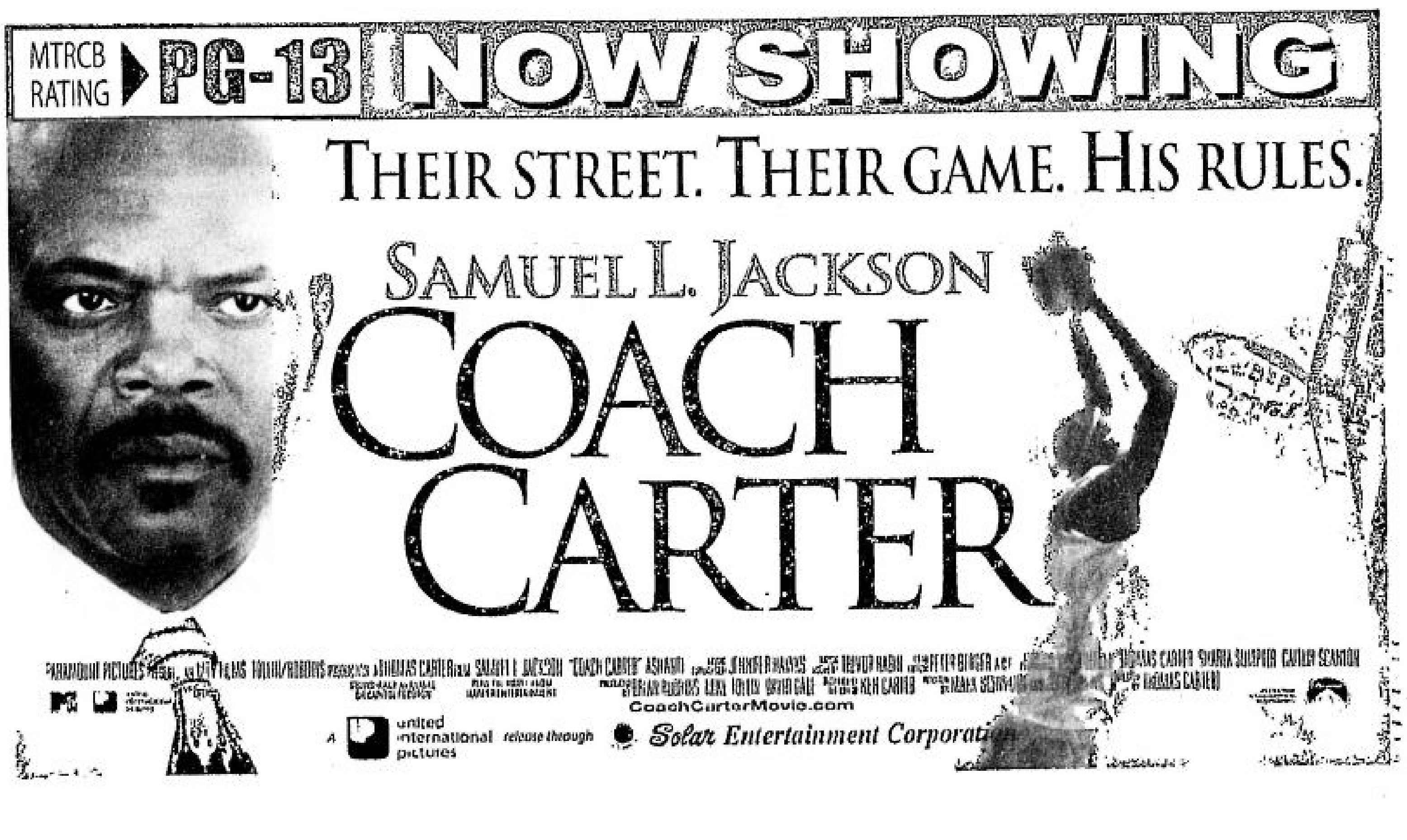
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The imperfect Melanie Marquez

By Nini Valera

MELANIE Marquez is perfect in her imperfections.

From her famous I-love-my-long-legged statement during the Miss International Beauty Pageant in Japan in 1979, which she won, to her book of quotes that is coming out later this year, Melanie, 41, has epitomized the so-called bimbo with a big heart and lots of soul.

She hasn't lost her spunk.

Several pages short

Face-to-face with INQUIRER Entertainment for an exclusive interview after a four-hour photo session for the advertising layout of a skin care line, Melanie was revving up to deliver more quotes that would hopefully make it to her "Don't Judge Me, I Am Not A Book."

"I'm trying to fill up 100 pages of quotable quotes," she said. "So far, I have only 80 pages."

Here's one quote for page 81: "It was really suffer for me the first time I fell in love."

Melanie was referring to her liaison with former action star, now Sen. Lito Lapid, by whom she has a 23-year-old son Miguelito.

"*Hindi ako bumabalik kay* [I am not going back to] Lito," she said. "I only called him up to ask for financial assistance for our son who wanted to take up medicine. Miguelito told me, 'Ma, I wish I could study fulltime.' As a mother, they should understand that it was very hurtful if your son told you something like that. My son has a right to financial support from his father. What mother could ignore that?"

Certainly not Melanie, who prides herself in being a good mother to her six children—Miguelito; Mazen, 15, "a special child with that Arab guy"; Maxine, 13; Michelle, 10, by Derek Dee; Maddock, 3; and Abraham, 2, by Adam Lawyer, "who's also a lawyer."

Of her relationship with Lawyer, she said, "I think this is it. We started as friends *lang*. But I think I'm in love with my husband. It scares me to be involved with someone else. I'm not the type of woman who would jump from one man to another. That was tough."

PHOTO BY JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Melanie has been with Lawyer for six years now. She said she met him through a childhood friend, Rosemarie Zamora, wife of the late Vic Vargas.

"I think Adam was my longtime admirer," said Melanie. "He's been divorced and has been a bachelor for 12 years before we met."

For the first time in her long career as supermodel, Melanie is endorsing a product, Renew Placenta skin care line.

"I think the timing is just right," she said of her endorsement. "I was always out of the country so there were no offers before. But when this one came, I accepted it. I'm using the soap on my body. But I don't use it on my face. I don't let soap and water touch my face. I just use baby oil or extra-virgin olive oil to remove my makeup. I have dry skin, so soap and water would make my facial skin drier."

No sour grapes

She admitted that she would like to keep age at bay, but would not do anything as drastic as a face lift.

"I want it to be gradual," she said, "by doing Botox first. I will avoid surgery for as long as I can. But I'm sure I would be doing that, too. You see, I'm a public personality, and I have to maintain my looks."

She also has to maintain her image as beauty queen. Which was why she sponsored her own candidacy in the Mrs. World Beauty Pageant held in Mumbai, India last February.

"Unfortunately, I was only on the top 12," Melanie lamented. "I'm not sour-graping or anything. I have always considered myself as imperfect."

Tolits and Priscila very much alive

By Marinel R. Cruz

THEY'RE alive and well.

But if rumors were to be believed, former sexy actress Priscilla Almeda and child wonder Bernard Joecel "BJ" Forbes both died last week.

Priscilla (Abby Viduya in real life) was said to have expired in a hospital in Japan. BJ, the "*Ako, ako, lagi na lang ako*" boy in a detergent soap commercial, reportedly met an accident after shooting his recent "Tolits" Tide series.

According to Priscilla's aunt, Nacy Delgado, it was the actress' friend and not Pricilla who died last week. Delgado added that another friend of Priscilla's confirmed that the actress was very much alive.

A source said the Viduya family was "alarmed" by the news and immediately called "contacts" in Japan. "The family members had the news investigated," the source said. "They were relieved when they found out that it wasn't true." Priscilla has not returned to the Philippines since she left late last year for Japan.

Analisa Forbes, BJ's mom, said she received many calls last Sunday from relatives and GMA 7 staff members, all worried about her son.

BJ was upset. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"One *amiga* was even crying," Analisa recalled. "She asked me, 'So what's the real score?' I told her, 'I don't understand you.' Then she told me about the news. *Nainis ako*."

BJ had something to say, too, about his "untimely death":

IT WAS a friend of hers.

"*Nagsungit po ako nung nalaman kong namatay ako. Nakakainis po yung balita. Bakit po ganun? Pero sabi naman po ni* Mommy *'wag ako magalit kasi po ang ibig sabihin nun, mas hahaba pa ang buhay ko*."

To clarify the issue, Analisa accompanied her son to the news program "24 Oras," and then to the early morning show "Unang Hirit" on GMA 7. "I told everyone not to worry about BJ."

In 2003, Priscilla accused her Filipino-American husband, Shaft Ricablanca, of beating her. They separated shortly after.

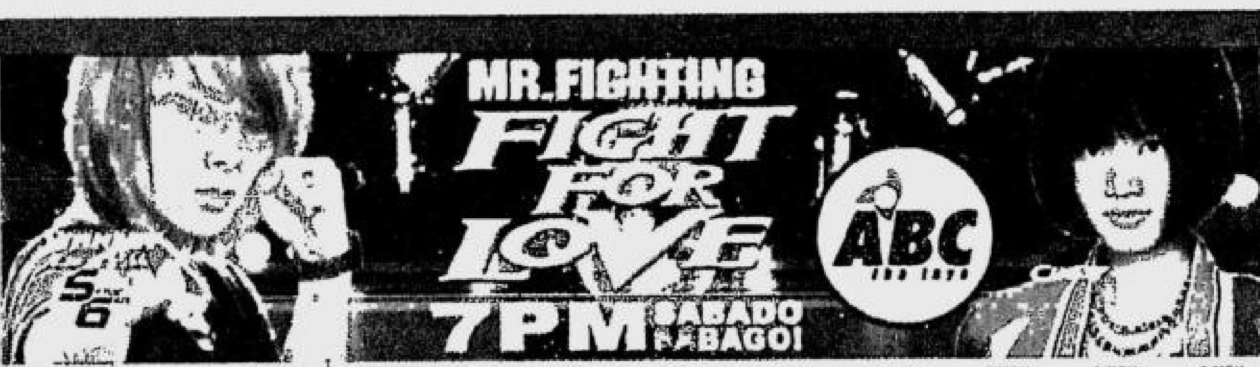
Ricablanca, supposedly the scion of a prominent family from Aklan and a medical technician in a New York hospital, denied the allegation. The two met in New York while Priscilla was filming Lav Diaz's five-hour opus, "Batang West Side." They have a four-year-old daughter named Maria.

Priscilla was last seen in the stage play "Butterflies are Free," in December 2003, with Joel Torre, Richard Signey and Linda Lupton.

BJ is a regular in shows like "Eat Bulaga," "Lovely Day," "Bubble Gang Jr." and "Art Angel," and has appeared on "Extra Challenge," "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," and "Bubble Gang."

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Thursday, June 2, 2005



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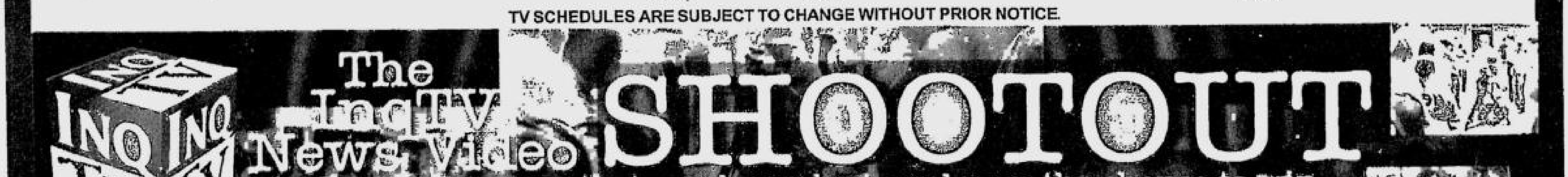
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10PM)	Meteor Garden Full Edition (5:35PM)		TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Opids	Stained Glass	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Inq TV	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Flame Of Recca	Full House		24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		All About Eve	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	NBA On RPN					Band Of Brothers		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		Asian X-Tour			TM-9 Ball		IBC News Tonite		
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Ride With Funk Master Flex	Jack In The Box				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip-Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Combo Nick				Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model			The Bachelorette		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		Fear Factor		CSI: NY (Season I)		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Boomtown		30 Seconds To Fame	Mondo Magic	Lost		The Contender			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol	Growing Up Gotti	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	American Idol	Growing Up Gotti	The Simple Life	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	American Idol
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Frontiers Of Construction		Explorations Powered By Duracell		Evolution		Egypt Detectives	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Frontiers Of Construction		Explorations Powered By Duracell	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixl	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO				The Clinic (3.55PM)			Dad (5:25PM)				Flipper (7:25PM)			Top Gun			Cradle 2 The Grave (10:45PM)		
Star Movies		Rob Roy					Hope Ranch (5:20PM)			Mystery Alaska				Daylight				Sleeping With The Enemy	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Codename: Kids Next Door	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN		World Tenpin Masters '05		UCA NHSCC Open Div. Med. Cheerleading	Motorsport Asia	NBA Anthology Down Low: Life in the D-League	LPGA Corning Classic					Sportscenter Asia	Motorsport Asia	Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Woo			Born To Ride			Little Women				White Rush			Christine				City Of Angels (10.50PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Strong Medicine		Midsomer Murders: Garden Of Death			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Extreme Machines		Superstructures		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Power Zone	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



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Standard & Poor's keeps RP rating

STANDARD & Poor's will keep its BB-minus rating and stable outlook on the Philippines for the moment despite the passage of key reform measures, two credit analysts from the global ratings agency said yesterday.

Last Friday, Fitch Ratings raised its sovereign outlook on the Philippines to stable from negative, saying the recent reforms by the government were likely to cut chronic budget deficits.

"Ratings are appropriate where they stand at the moment," Philippe Sachs, a Singapore-based S&P associate for sovereign and international public finance ratings, told reporters at a briefing.

'The reforms could lead to debt and deficit reduction but were not likely to prompt an immediate revision of the ratings, said Sachs and Agost Benard, S&P's associate director for sovereign and international public finance ratings.

The ratings agency wanted to see improvements in revenue collection and a reduction in external debt levels, they added.

S&P downgraded the Philippines by one notch in January, to three notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, citing delays in crucial fiscal reforms.

Moody's Investors Service gave the Philippines a more severe cut in February, to four notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, saying there were risks posed by the country's large debts.

An S&P credit analyst had hinted that the ratings agency was not contemplating a change in the Philippines' BB-minus rating and its stable outlook despite a budget surplus and the passage of key revenue-raising measures.

The government said last week it had a budget surplus of P3.3 billion in April, the first in four years, after record collections that month by the main tax agency.

"Our rating and the outlook is appropriate for the time being notwithstanding the budget surplus," S&P credit analyst Agost Benard told Reuters in Hong Kong.

"The surplus... is encouraging, (but) what we are talking about here is a need for a fundamental turnaround of the fiscal deficit and debt positions," he said.

A change in the outlook was also not imminent, he said.

"The next move, if things continue in the

STANDARD/ B4

INDICATORS

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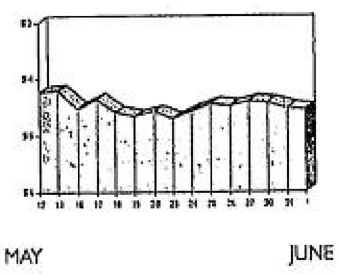
PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 54.550 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 1, 2005

¥ 108.31 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 1, 2005

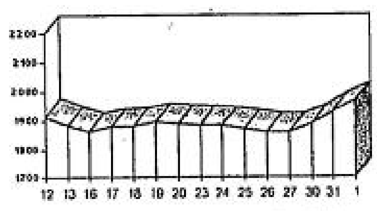
GOLD: $418.30-418.80

per ounce Hong Kong, May 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares continue rally

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 1.81 percent higher yesterday as investors chased blue chips for a fourth consecutive session on the back of the country's improving economic and fiscal outlook, dealers said.

Dealers said investors have been pushing share prices higher after Fitch Ratings last week upgraded its outlook on the country's credit ratings and the government's forecast the economy would grow strongly in the second half.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 34.93 points to 1,964.31. It traded between 1,929.38 and 1,966.21. Turnover reached 1.27 billion shares worth P1.37 billion.

The broader all-shares index gained 16.03 points to 1,190.57.

Gainers beat losers 67 to 17, while 52 stocks ended unchanged.

"The market's rise was a continuation of gains we had in the previous days, primarily anchored on the recent Fitch upgrade," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

Gross domestic product grew 4.6 percent in the three months to March, slower than the 5.4 percent expansion in the fourth quarter of 2004 as farm output fell.

"As far as the economy is concerned, people were expecting a much slower growth than what the government reported. They were not quite bullish on the Philippine economy and they were proven wrong," said Nina Tinio of Unicapital Securities.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

From Pasar, school facilities and houses for the poor

/B4

Court approves Maynilad rehabilitation plan

/B3

ASIANA, KOREAN AIR

Korean airlines pick Cebu

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOUTH Korean carriers are launching flights to Cebu starting July to take advantage of strong interest among Koreans to travel and explore the Visayas, the head of the Mactan Cebu International Airport said.

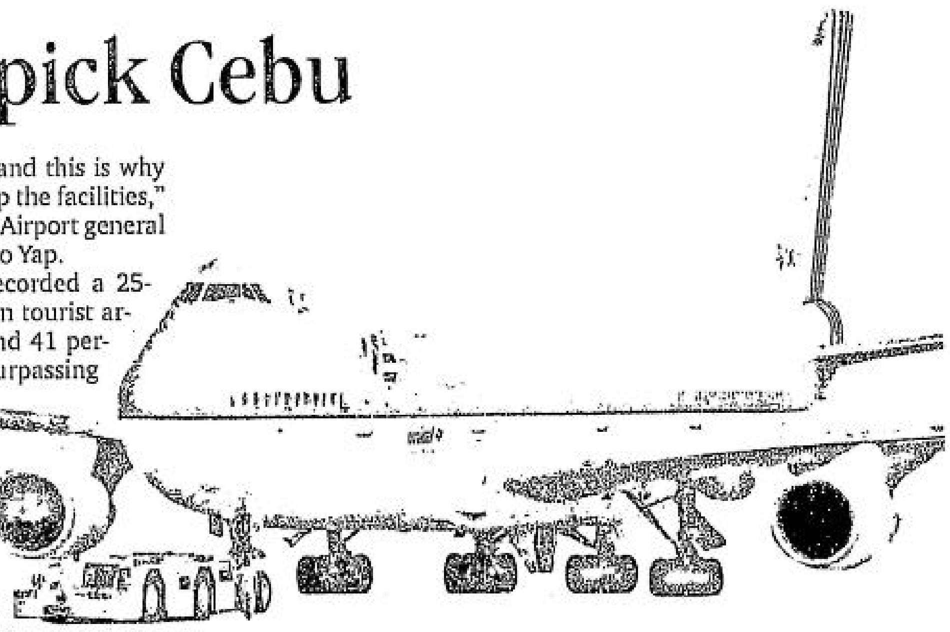
Asiana Airlines would mount four weekly flights from Cebu to Incheon, Korea, starting July 13 while Korean Air would fly twice a week to Cebu starting July 18.

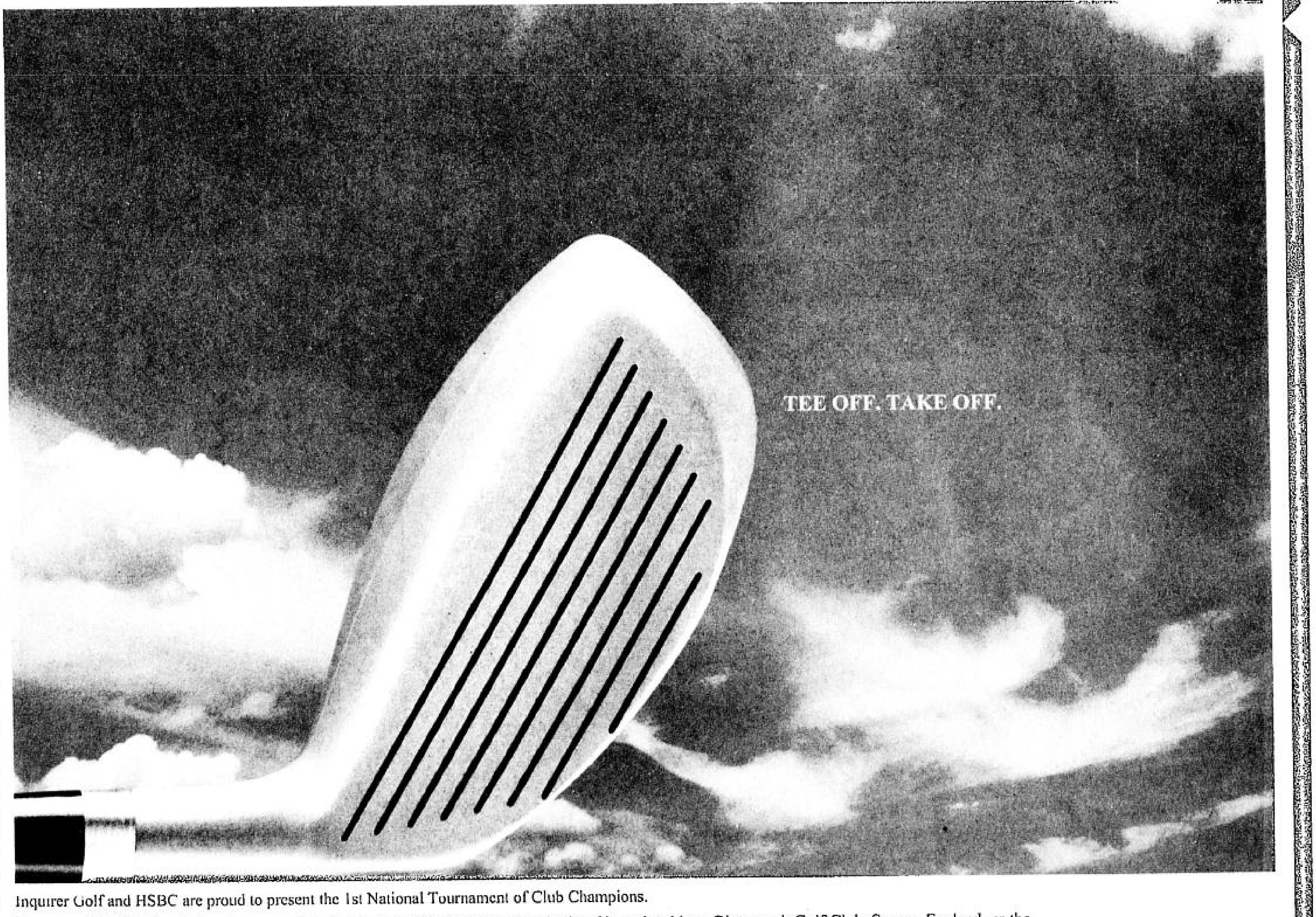
"The Korean airlines are going to bring in more tourists to the region. More foreign airlines are planning to use Cebu as their hub from the Visayas and this is why we want to beef up the facilities," said Mactan Cebu Airport general manager Adelberto Yap.

South Korea recorded a 25-percent increase in tourist arrivals in March and 41 percent in April, surpassing Japan as the top Asian market of the Philippines.

More than 10 million South Koreans travel each year. Tourism

KOREAN/ B2





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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

(Store wars episode 3)

IN A not so far boardroom, not too long ago, the board of Equitable PCI Bank was busy with the usual activities of directors.

The directors were making the most of a throat-tearing, voice-grating shouting match.

From what I heard, the boardroom fight erupted during the board meeting on Tuesday last week.

And it was only the latest episode in the long-drawn war between the bank's two groups of stockholders.

On one side is the Go family, who used to control Equitable Bank, which six years ago merged with the much bigger PCI Bank.

The government is on the other.

Thus, in reality, they were merely fighting over…well, OUR own money.

* * *

FOR the sake of the action stars in our Senate, the single biggest stockholder of the publicly listed Equitable PCI happens to be the government.

During the time of the man named Band…Wrist Band…the government sank billions of pesos into the bank, and so the government now owns about 46 percent of it.

In comparison, the Go family only owns about 25 percent.

Yet, the government has only five directors in the board, while the Go family also has five. I mean, it's not as if they have equal holdings in the bank.

With the help of so-called "independent directors," who are known to the government side as "attack dogs" of the family, the Go group controls the bank.

Now, the government money in the bank, actually, did not come from the national treasury. Those billions of pesos sank into Equitable PCI by the government came from the country's biggest pension funds, known as the SSS and the GSIS.

In other words, the money belongs to you and me. All P16 billion or so of it!

* * *

IT seems that the two warring groups of stockholders of Equitable PCI directors were jockeying for control of the bank.

Surely, the SSS and the GSIS want to have a major role in managing the bank, because they invested in it about P16-billion of our old-age pension and retirement funds.

The key to such a control is the bloc of shares that the Go group put under the name of a subsidiary of the bank, a company called EBC Investment.

In 1999, when the Go family bought out the majority stockholders of PCI Bank, which was the Lopez-Gokongei group, the family used the money of Equitable Bank.

When they could not pay for it, they simply made a swirling, spinning assist-pass to EBC Investment. They put some 80 million shares in the name of EBC Investment.

Meanwhile, at that time, the Bangko Sentral gave Equitable PCI two years to sell the shares. That should have been done in 2001.

It's already 2005, or only four years delayed. In other words, nobody even bothers to obey the Bangko Sentral. That's why the directors were shouting at each other.

* * *

IN that shouting match during the board meeting, SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz, who is a director, took part through a conference call.

Another government representative in the board is former DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., who also did not mince words during that meeting.

In effect, the government side wanted the Go family to stop using those shares of EBC Investment to vote for board members in the annual stockholders meeting this July.

If the shares will be used—AGAIN—the votes should be counted pro-rated, based on the holdings of the warring groups. In effect, the votes from those shares do not count.

But again and again, the Go group in the board stalled any decision on those shares, saying that the shares were the issue in a court case filed by the GSIS.

The Go group claimed that the board could not even talk about the shares.

Actually, the government side already knows by now that the Go family cannot be bothered by court cases.

The government fears that the government could just go to court all it wants, but the Go group will just do what it also wants.

Anyway, in any fight for board control, court cases become moot and academic. The court case will not be finished before the one-year term of the board.

That, believe me, is what's happening to our money. The SSS and the GSIS are so freaking helpless, all they can do is go to court. What about putting some people in jail, for once?

* * *

NOW the plot thickens as, all of a sudden, news came out that Equitable PCI was going to swap the same contentious shares with the Robinson's Savings Bank.

That is the bank of the Gokongwei group, which sold out to the Go family, and which is making an apparent comeback into the bank.

With the rise of the lord of all bidders, John Gokongwei Jr. himself, a bidding war is likely to ensue between him and the SM group of Henry "Tatang" Sy.

The government side, together with other stockholders represented by Martin Romualdez, argued that, if that is the case, that the board cannot even talk about the shares, the same is true with the Go group.

They cannot swap the shares or use it for toilet paper, or what.

In other words, and this is good for the government side, the shares remain in limbo.

* * *

THAT is the only way the GSIS and the SSS can protect our interest in the bank, being its single biggest stockholder.

If the Go family cannot use the shares anymore, the government side may easily wrest control of the bank from the Go family.

Horror stories abound regarding our money in the bank. For instance, the bank rents a whole building in Manila, although it uses only the ground floor for its branch.

Moreover, the bank even owns a brand new building nearby that it is not using.

Guess who owns the building that the bank is leasing.

And then you hear stories about the credit card company, called Equitable Card Network, which is owned by the bank to the tune of 90 percent.

Apparently, one of the Go family members happens to own the other 10 percent. I am sure you can guess who controls the credit card company.

Despite being the biggest credit card company here, with some 1.2 million cardholders, the credit card company brings to bank profits of only about P400 million a year.

In fairness to the other directors in the bank, they have been minding the store for us in this war, questioning the bank's share in the earnings of the credit card company.

For instance, another credit card company has only 400,000 cardholders, and it earns some P400 million, too.

* * *

IN that shouting match during the board meeting, who should take up the cudgels for the Go family but one of the directors "elected" (for lack of a better word) by the family.

His name is Tony Conway.

From what I gathered, Conway is a US national who used to work for the Visa credit card company.

Again, if you believe the rumors, Conway is a foreigner. As far as I know, Bangko Sentral rules only allow foreigners to sit on the board of local banks, if they are representing foreign holdings.

In this case, Conway is representing the Go family. As director of the bank, in which we poured some P16 billion of our pension and accident and burial funds, Conway gets of a typical banking EXPAT. You know—all the perks.

Word goes around that Conway gets from the bank fat allowances for housing, transport (i.e. car), and schooling of the children. Maybe lots of travel, too!

I mean, come on, what is the government doing about all this? Malacañang may be helpless on jueteng, but I don't believe this cute administration can do nothing about our money in the bank.

Korean airlines pick Cebu

From page B1

Secretary Ace Durano is targeting to lure about half a million of them to the country in 2005.

Yap said the Cebu hub had been catering to other foreign airlines as well. He said the airport was turning out to be like Clark, which has become a favorite among low-cost carriers.

Singapore's Tiger Airways and Malaysia's AirAsia have signified interest to fly from Cebu to the Lion City and the other to Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu.

In April, Yap said budget carriers such as Taiwan's Mandarin Airlines and China's Far Eastern Transport started operations. Mandarin Airlines now flies from Taipei to Cebu three times a week.

Other carriers flying overseas from Cebu are Philippine Airlines, Cebu Air Pacific, Qatar Airlines, Malaysian Air and Silk Air.

The increasing activity at the Cebu airport prompted the transportation department to propose the construction of a new terminal. The Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that passengers using the Cebu airport would hit 5 million over the next five years.

Yap said that for the meantime, the government was looking at a P500-million expansion of the existing terminal. The Cebu airport has only one terminal building, which serves both domestic and international flights.

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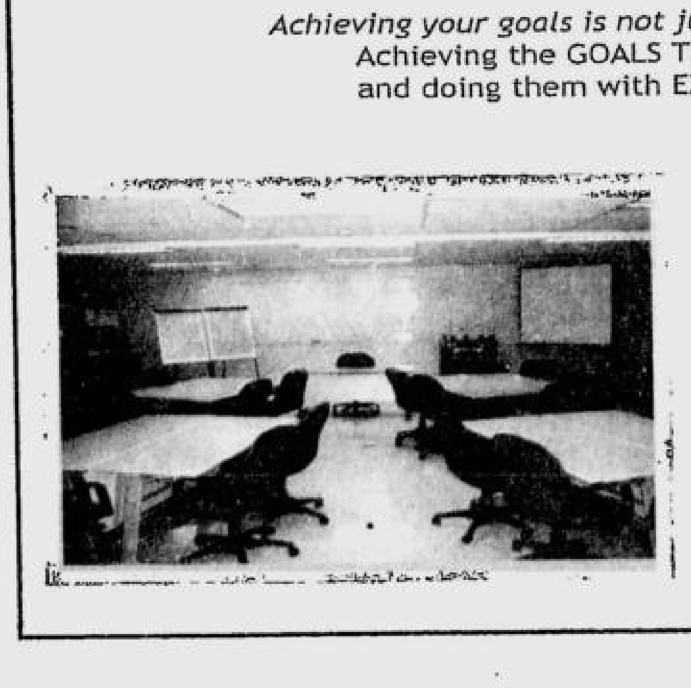

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, June 2, 2005)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33.5	32	32	1,538,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	48.5	49	4,834,200
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank, Inc	0.64	0.65	0.64	.65	2,760,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	53	53	51.5	51.5	270,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	1,323,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	31	29.5	30	691,100
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	500
Philippine National Bank	35	35	34	34	38,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	20,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2470	2450	2470	550
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	168,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1690	1690	1690	1690	220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp	12	12	12	12	245,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	6,969,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	820	825	23,110
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	55,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	.21	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.3	5,355,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1495	1550	1490	1545	198,930
Ivantage Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	510,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	25,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	30,900
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	23.25	22.25	23.25	637,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.4	2,717,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.3	2,280,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	145,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.7	4,173,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.6	0.61	0.6	.61	380,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	400,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.45	3.7	3.45	3.55	5,055,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.7	0.64	.7	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	41,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	29	29	100,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	12,995,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59	58.5	59	43,800
San Miguel Corp. B	90.5	90.5	90	90	517,700
Universal Robina Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	89,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	.0085	32,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0095	0.0085	.0095	32,000,000
Ayala Corp.	372.5	377.5	372.5	377.5	255,090
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.49	0.45	.49	170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.9	4.95	1,675,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.06	2,350,000
APC Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	.32	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	5,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	.155	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	14,680,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	390,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	.22	3,220,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.31	15,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.8	2.65	2.65	2,936,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp	8.2	8.9	8.2	8.8	3,879,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	47	49	46.5	49	1,391,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	.0875	2,800,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	34,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	8,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	.25	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.42	11,291,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	.39	14,820,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	25	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.24	0.28	0.24	.28	720,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.98	0.95	.98	380,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	.51	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	121,200
South China Resources Inc	0.6	0.6	0.6	6	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	8,050,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	.095	300,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.18	0.15	.18	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	7,616,000
Acesita Phils Hotel Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	.83	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.3	3,169,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	39,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	.33	1,260,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11	12	11	11.5	733,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	8.2	7.8	8	9,979,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.92	0.96	0.92	.94	210,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	.28	10,110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	.205	1,070,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.21	0.17	.21	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	7,590,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.46	24,779,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.22	0.2	.22	630,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	9,000
SM Development Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.5	44,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.9	5,167,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.75	0.82	0.75	.82	140,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	128,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.35	4.6	4.25	4.5	232,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.35	0.32	34	7,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.34	0.37	0.34	.37	8,980,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.014	.015	165,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	109,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	521,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.89	0.9	0.87	.9	760,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.02	1.06	1	1.06	5,967,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	32	33	32	32.5	241,200
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	.006	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	36,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	.155	4,370,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000

CURRENCIES

June 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.812875955	1.000000	54.4890
Japan	Yen	0.007491	0.009216	0.5022
United Kingdom	Pound	1.47667	1.816600	98.9847
Hongkong	Dollar	0.104499	0.128555	7.0048
Switzerland	Franc	0.65103	0.800897	43.6401
Canada	Dollar	0.647865	0.797003	43.4279
Singapore	Dollar	0.487891	0.600204	32.7045
Australia	Dollar	0.616796	0.758783	41.3453
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.156264	2.652661	144.5408
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216767	0.266667	14.5304
Brunei	Dollar	0.486431	0.598408	32.6067
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020014	0.024621	1.341
UAE	Dirham	0.221323	0.272272	14.835
Euro	Euro	1	1.230200	67.032
ArgentinaPeso	0.281515	0.346320	18.8706	
Brazil	REAL	0.336734	0.414250	22.572
Denmark	Kroner	0.134402	0.165341	9.009
India	Rupee	0.018635	0.022925	1.249
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213943	0.263193	14.341
Mexico	New Peso	0.07471	0.091908	5.008
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573822	0.705916	38.464
Norway	Kroner	0.126043	0.155058	8.449
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013846	0.017033	0.928
South Africa	Rand	0.120557	0.148309	8.081
Korea	Won	0.000809	0.000995	0.054
Sweden	Kroner	0.10928	0.134436	7.325
Syria	Pound	0.015659	0.019264	1.049
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026112	0.032123	1.750
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000379	0.000466	0.025

Court approves Maynilad rehabilitation plan

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has given its seal of approval to the latest rehabilitation plan of Maynilad Water Services Inc.

In an order issued by Judge Reynaldo Daway of RTC Branch 90 yesterday, the court approved the final revisions to Maynilad's corporate rehabilitation plan aimed at boosting the viability of the west water concessionaire.

The rehabilitation plan was also accepted by foreign and local creditors of Maynilad, except for the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (which was still waiting for the go-ahead of its board of directors). The creditors agreed that the new plan would significantly improve the financial and operational viability of Maynilad, which serves more than eight million customers in Manila and nearby cities and municipalities.

Maynilad's top creditors include the government-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), foreign banks Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank plc and BNP Paribas, and local lenders Equitable PCI-Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and DBP.

The major highlight of the rehabilitation plan is that Maynilad's majority shareholder, Benpres Holdings Inc., will divest all its shares valued at $22.7 million.

Shares of Benpres' French partner, Ondeo Philippines (formerly known as Suez Lyonnais des Eaux), will be reduced to 13 percent.

Maynilad rehabilitation receiver Rosario Bernaldo said that 84 percent of Maynilad's shares would be for the subscription of MWSS, which favored a debt-for-equity conversion unlike the banks which preferred to be paid in cash over a longer period.

"It does not mean that MWSS is the new owner. During the period of capital restructuring it must provide the needed fresh capital and subscribe to these shares," she explained.

As the biggest creditor with an exposure of P1 billion, the MWSS will also receive payments for Maynilad's deferred concession fees until year 2010.

The rehabilitation plan also included a provision that would allow the entry of a private investor, instead of reverting ownership to the government, Bernaldo told the INQUIRER.

She explained, however, that in the absence of any interested party, the government would take over and continue to operate the water company.

Citibank raises P1.5B from debt issue

CITIBANK NA has completed the offer period of its maiden issue of long-term negotiable certificates of time deposit, raising P1.5 billion. The issue, the first of a foreign bank in the local market, was offered at a maturity of 5 years and one day.

HSBC acted as lead manager of the issue, and together with Citicorp Financial Services & Insurance Brokerage Services Inc. were appointed as selling agents.

The certificates are direct obligations and indebtedness of a bank that carry PDIC insurance. As a bond deposit hybrid, these can be traded in the secondary market, through HSBC, the market maker.

The issue allows Citigroup access to long-term funding from individual and corporate investors who are interested in alternative instruments to help diversify their portfolios.

"The issue signifies our continuing commitment to helping fast track the development of the local capital markets—a key priority of Citigroup," said James Hunt, Citigroup country officer.

"HSBC is privileged to work with Citibank on this transaction. It demonstrates the synergy of two global financial institutions working to provide local customers with quality investment alternatives," said Warner Manning, president and CEO of HSBC.

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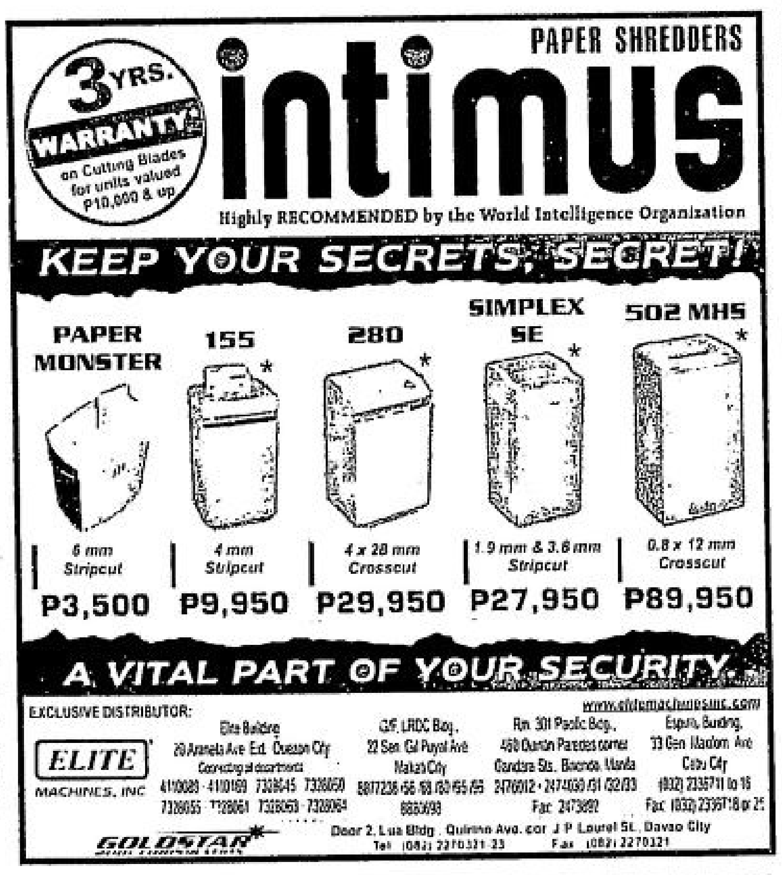
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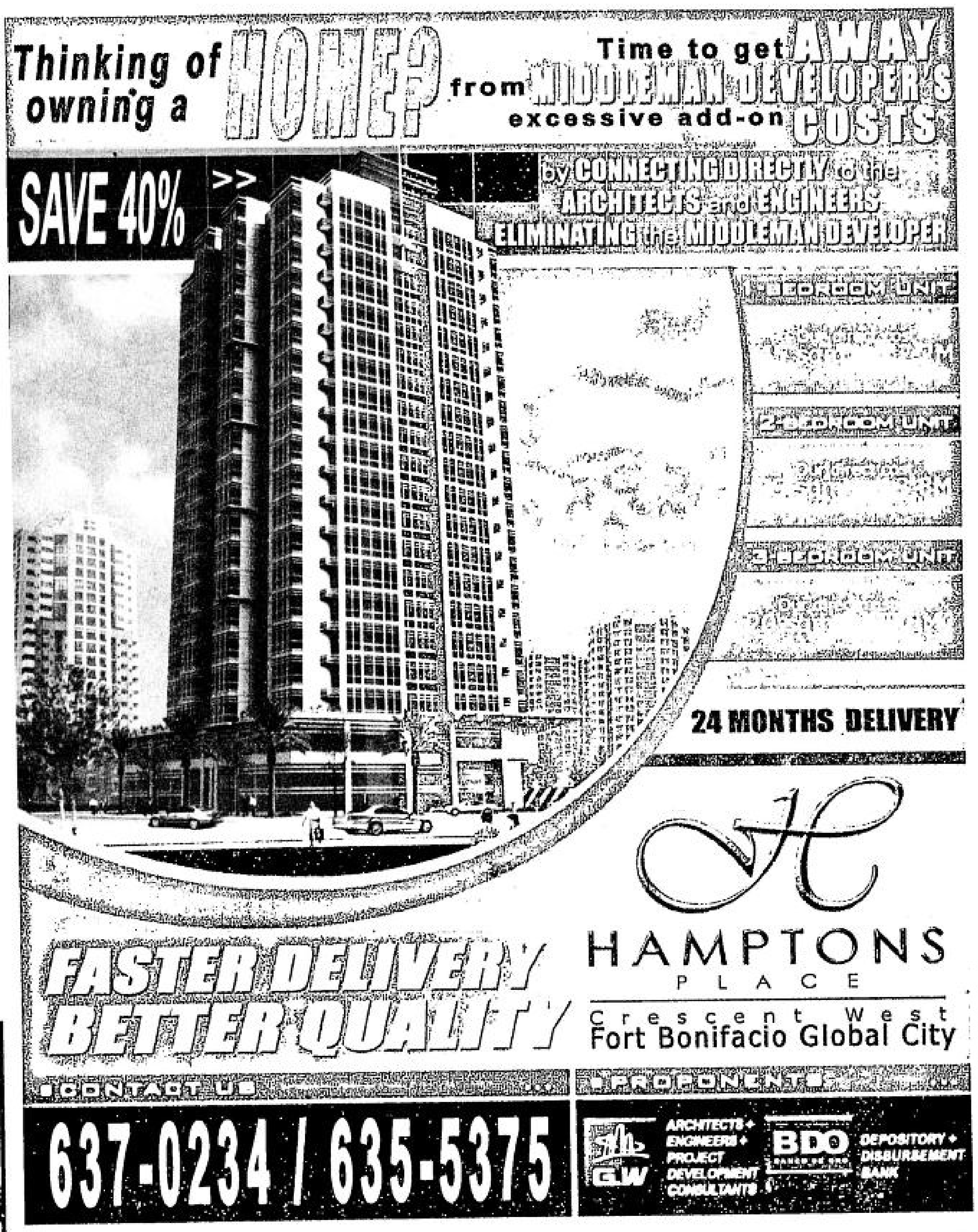
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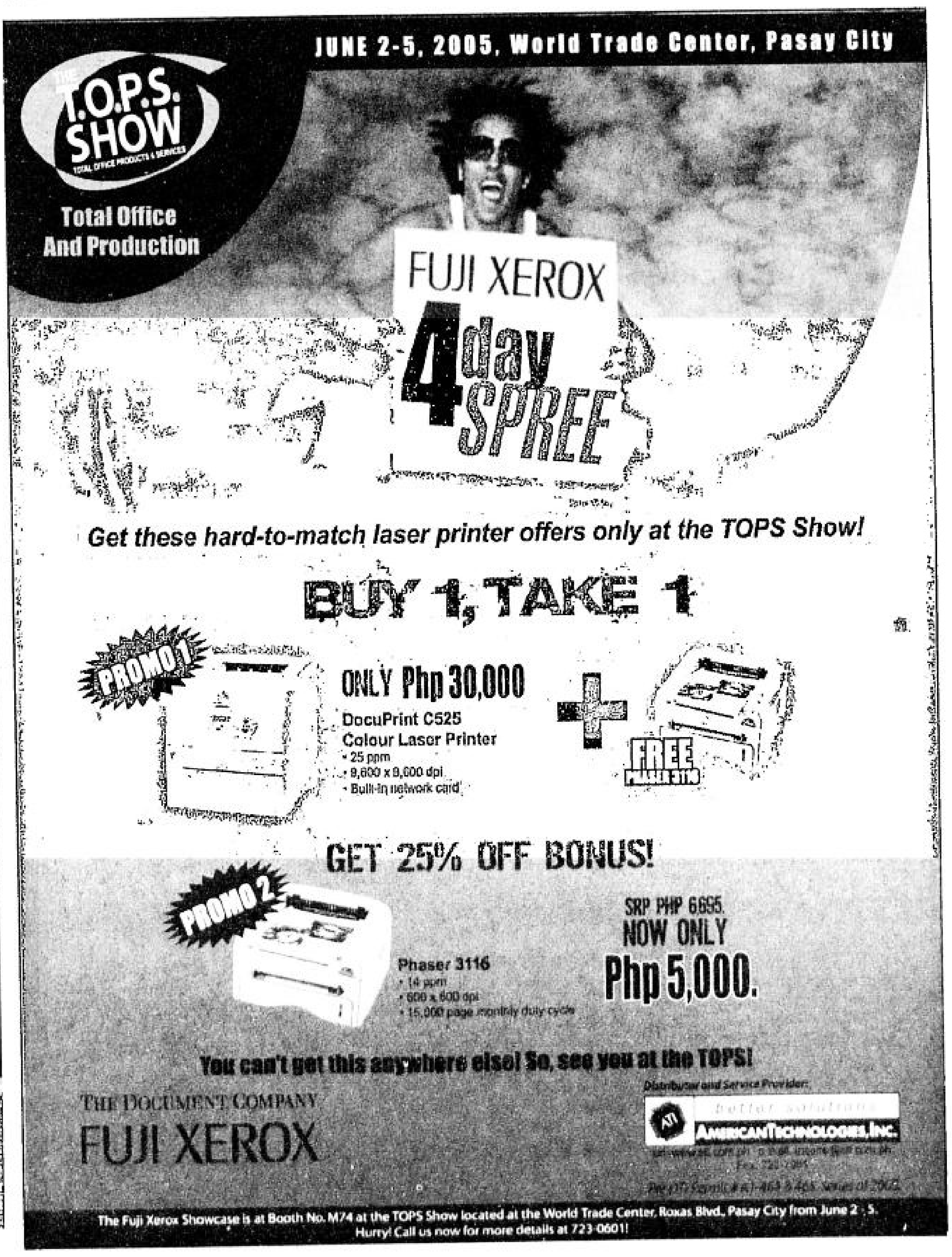
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RP secures ₱1-B World Bank loan for LAMP II

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank has approved a fresh P1-billion ($18.99 million) loan to help the Philippines improve its land administration system and facilitate the issuance of land tenure rights.

The new loan for the Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP II) would be used to reduce poverty, promote social stability and stimulate economic growth by improving the country's land administration system.

The bank yesterday said improving the efficiency and transparency of land administration would reduce the time and cost of registration of land transactions and, therefore, would encourage the development of the formal land market which protects property rights and reduces land disputes.

The project's major beneficiaries are farmers with no security of land tenure and rural and urban land owners who find the present system burdensome.

According to officials, the farmers will receive land titles.

Inefficiency in the country's land administration system has hampered sustainable rural and urban development.

In the 2003 Investment Climate Survey sponsored by the World Bank, the Philippines came out second to the last among 12 countries in terms of the number of days it would normally take to complete a land transaction.

This situation has arisen, the study said, because of a weak and inefficient institutional setup, rigid and outdated land laws and regulations, multiple and inconsistent land valuation systems used in various government agencies, and lack of transparency and accountability in the land registration system.

A more efficient land administration system would promote economic development, increase opportunities for the poor, and encourage sustainable management of land resources, the bank said.

"Under this project, we expect the systematic land-titling and registration to increase land security by providing opportunities for land owners to use land title as collateral for credit needed to promote investment, productivity, and incomes, thereby contributing directly to the process of poverty alleviation," said World Bank Philippines Country Director Joachim von Amsberg.

From Pasar, school facilities and houses for the poor

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CORPORATE CITIZEN

KIDS play in one of the new houses that Pasar has donated to poor families in Leyte

ISABEL, Leyte—Edwin Malate and his family used to live in a small house in a middle of a swamp known as a haven of shabu users.

Today, the Malate family lives in a two-bedroom house made of bricks and galvanized iron sheets, built on elevated ground in a friendly community.

The Malates, together with eight other family-beneficiaries, received their respective houses from Pasar Foundation Inc., the corporate social responsibility arm of the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refinery Corporation (Pasar), during a simple rite on May 25 at their village, Barangay Sta. Cruz, in Isabel, Leyte.

"It never entered our minds that in the many years we've lived in this place, there would be kind people who are ready to help the poor like us," said Malate, 32, who used to sell vegetables, but now acts as general foreman of the housing project in Sta. Cruz.

His wife, Janette, sells food items near the community school. They have two sons, aged six and seven.

Malate recalled that, in the past, residents of Sta. Cruz sometimes had to bring food to their kids in school at noon, because the children could not go home during high tide.

Safe and peaceful

The village now stands on higher ground, safe and peaceful, after villagers worked together to restore peace and order in the area, he said.

In a house a few meters away from the village hall where the turnover rite was being held, Yolanda Lawas, 31, was happily attending to a small sari-sari store she had put up inside her house.

Her husband, Melecio, 28, works as driver of a private contractor. The couple, who has three children, was among the nine families who received houses on Dec. 17, 2004 in a turnover ceremony dubbed GK-Pasar Pamasko.

Five months earlier, tricycle driver Bonifacio Erejer, 31, and his wife, Arlota, 44, together with five other families, received new houses from Pasar also under the Gawad Kalinga program.

The couple has a 10-year-old son and an 8-month-old daughter.

"Our situation now is very much better," Arlota told the INQUIRER. "We are now on dry land and we have a beautiful house."

Personal donations

Pasar, in partnership with Couples for Christ (CFC)-Gawad Kalinga, and with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government of Isabel, has pledged to donate 25 houses in the village, at a cost of P40,000 per unit, or a total cost of P1 million.

The company also donated slag to serve as backfill materials, flooring for the houses and mixing materials for house bricks. Some Pasar executives also made personal donations for the construction of three more houses in the area.

PASAR president Bruce Anderson (right) and Ricardo Santiago, Pasar Foundation Inc. president, inspect Pasar's donated goods. PHOTOS BY VEN LABRO

So far, Pasar has turned over 24 houses to poor families in Barangay Sta. Cruz. Four more houses are to be turned over soon, including those pledged by Pasar executives.

Actually, the CFC-Gawad Kalinga aims to construct through community effort, or the "bayanihan" spirit, nearly 400 houses for the landless urban poor in the area.

Bruce Anderson, chair of the Pasar Foundation Inc., said the housing project is "much like teaching people (how) to fish; you give them the means to have a home."

In the pipeline

He was referring to the project beneficiaries who do not only actively participate in community planning but also help in the actual construction of their houses by providing free labor.

Anderson, who is also the president of Pasar Corp., said that the Pasar Foundation has many other projects in the pipeline, like the construction of more houses and a school building, and the provision of livelihood projects for the poor.

"The Foundation is now drafting its long-term program as part of the strategic program of the Foundation for the next five years," said Ruben Cajigas, executive director of Pasar Foundation.

Cajigas said the Pasar Foundation Inc. is "still very young." It was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2004. In December 2004, a memorandum of agreement was forged between Pasar and Pasar Foundation, "for the former to engage the services of the latter to assist, develop and handle the social development projects it already started, and manage these in consonant with the Foundation's development approaches."

Math laboratory

The creation of the Foundation shows Pasar's commitment to its corporate social responsibility in, around and beyond its area of operation, particularly in its host community, the municipality of Isabel.

Earlier that day in Isabel, Pasar Foundation turned over a Math laboratory at the Matlang National High School in Barangay Matlang.

The Math laboratory, costing about P800,000, was a grant under Pasar's Adopt-A-School-Program to support the Applied Academics for Excellence (APEX) program of the Department of Education, the provincial government of Leyte and the local government of Isabel.

Timely project

DepEd regional director Sol Matugas, in her message during the turnover, said the project was timely because the education department was focusing on Mathematics, Science and English, the three subject areas that "we want to master in the next 10 years because of the fact that we have been lagging behind in these fields."

Provincial Administrator Vince Emnas, who represented Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla, lauded Pasar Corp. and Pasar Foundation for their projects in Leyte.

In recent years, Pasar has also been initiating environment-related projects, medical missions, and education and youth development programs in Leyte.

RP exporters to review trade targets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SLOWDOWN in the global economy and the bleak Philippine first-quarter exports data have prompted a group of exporters to review its bullish target of posting a 10-percent growth this year.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation (PhilExport), the organization of the country's exporters, will hold a summit next month to discuss the prospects for the remaining part of the year, and decide whether the 10-percent growth target would have to be revised to a lower figure.

In the first quarter, exports reached only $9.52 billion, representing a measly 3.6-percent growth from the same period last year. Although export performance was at a strong 15.4-percent growth in January, it was pulled down by the 0.6- and 2.8-percent drop in February and March respectively.

"We must assess whether there is a need to revise the target, and we will discuss problems hounding business," Sergio-Ortiz Luis said in an interview.

But he added that there was still a slight hope that the drop in exports in February and March would not be indicative of a downward trend for the rest of the year, considering that the January figure was higher than the full-year target.

Economists said the global economy is expected to slow down this year largely because of soaring oil prices in the international market.

University of Asia and the Pacific economist Roberto De Vera earlier said higher spending for oil had forced firms to cut budget allocations for other goods.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said the high cost of oil was trimming down demand for exports. The agency also could not say whether the 10-percent target was still achievable.

The Neda said it would still have to review the 10-percent growth target, which was adopted both by the government and the export industry.

Ortiz-Luis said that in the coming exporters' summit, members would raise major concerns that are hampering exports growth. He said one area to be discussed would be the high cost of doing business in the Philippines, particularly the rising cost of power and taxes.

Ortiz-Luis, who is also chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said the group was preparing a draft of its proposed amendments to the recently signed Value-Added Tax law.

PWPA to hold forestry meet

THE PHILIPPINE Wood Producers Association, together with the Department of Environment and Natural resources, the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural resources and the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc., will hold the Philippine Forestry Development Forum on June 2-3 at the Asian Development Bank in Pasig City.

The theme of the forum will be "Sustainable Forest Management: A Holistic Path to National Development."

The forum aims to create an awareness of the importance of the forestry sector in national development among all concerned sectors of Philippine society.

Key representatives of forest-based industries, research and academic institutions, policy-making bodies and other stakeholders, will take part in the forum.

During the forum, the delegates will draft a resolution that will serve as the basis for crafting the country's long-term forestry strategy. The delegates are hoping that the resolution will be jointly adopted by the Philippine government, the forestry sector and other concerned stakeholders.

Japan urged to limit used car exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. has urged Malacañang to prod the Japanese government into limiting the export of used vehicles into the Philippines, which industry officials said has limited the growth of the local automotive industry.

Yasuhiro Yomoda, TMC's general manager for Asia, Oceania and the Middle East, said in an interview that the company believed the influx of used vehicles could be addressed if Tokyo imposed a requirement for exporters to secure a certificate that units they were shipping out were in acceptable condition.

Yomoda explained that, for example, used vehicles in Japan should be certified serviceable and compliant with standards in the country of destination.

"We think that the chance of such a policy being adopted would be greater if (Manila) asked (Tokyo) to do so," Yomoda said. "For now, there is no restriction for any exporter to ship out used vehicles to any destination."

According to industry estimates, about 30,000 used vehicles were being shipped to and being used in the Philippines each year.

Industry officials say this was more problematic than the 10,000 or so used vehicles that were landed in Indonesia--a relatively bigger automotive market.

In 2004, assemblers sold about 88,000 newly manufactured units in the Philippines, while about 450,000 were sold in Indonesia.

"The proliferation of used vehicles is a major concern for our Philippine operations," Yomoda said. "Aside from hurting the local industry, they pose problems on environment and on road safety."

Local assemblers have said that most of the imported used vehicles were not roadworthy considering that they were being converted from right-hand to left-hand drive. They also said such units do not undergo tests for compliance with emission standards.

"We hope the Philippine government would take steps to create conditions that would help the local industry grow," Yomoda said.

Serafin M. Pantaleon, senior vice president of TMC's local unit, said that local assemblers have pushed for the certification of used vehicles imported from Japan during previous consultations regarding the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

In December 2004, Manila and Tokyo issued a joint statement saying they have agreed in principle to enter into an EPA, which would pave the way for a bilateral free trade agreement.

Standard & Poor's keeps RP rating

From page B1

same line, which is what I'd call incremental improvement ... then the next change in the outlook would be a positive and not a negative," he said.

"I don't think it (an upgrade) is likely at this stage, because we just downgraded the Philippines in January and we have a stable outlook on the ratings," Benard said.

He noted that any potential upgrade will be preceded by a change to a positive outlook.

"If you consider the overall fiscal position, it's not what you would consider a sustained improvement. Our ratings have a medium-term outlook and they don't change that often," he said.

A Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official had said that the Philippines would likely merit an improved ratings outlook by major rating agencies this year on the back of recent progress in its fiscal position.

In an interview Friday, BSP executive director for investor relations Renato Pizarro said: "Definitely, all the positive things that happened were providing the basis for the recognition of the efforts that the government had put in."

Aside from the passage of the value-added tax (VAT) reform package, Pizarro said the Philippines had achieved a lot of milestones: the record Bureau of Internal Revenue collections in April; the rising balance-of-payments surplus; the appreciation of the peso against the US dollar; the uptrend in the equity market; declining interest rates, and the strong inflow of migrant remittances. *Reuters*

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Filipino ads create worldwide buzz

WE WISH. Or better than wishing, we can make it happen.

Some jaded people think that expecting the Philippines to win an international advertising award is like expecting the next pope to be a woman. Sure, winning an award that will make the world take notice of our advertising brilliance is pretty tough, but not impossible. Besides, this nation is bursting with creative talents, waiting to be unleashed. It's just a matter of timing, motivation, and inspiration.

Enter, the Creative Guild of the Philippines, an association composed of the creative heads of advertising agencies, which will host the highly anticipated Creative Summit on June 7, at the Main Ballroom of the New World Hotel from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Creative Summit is a yearly, one-day abridged version of the ad congress. It may not necessarily be the answer to the lack of international recognition the advertising industry of this country needs, but it certainly is a step to know what it takes to get that elusive honor.

This year, the theme of the Creative Summit is "Kalat Mulat Angat The Creative Guilds 20th Year Vision". It serves as a battle cry that challenges local ad agencies to raise the quality of their commercials to international standards so that Philippine advertising will dominate international ad competitions. So far, the country has yet to win the highest awards in such illustrious contests as the Cannes Lion and the Clio.

International speakers will be invited to conduct workshops and seminars that will further widen the creative perspectives of the industry and arm them with all the know-how's, so we have a better chance at getting the oh-so-evasive Cannes Golden Lion or the much coveted Clio.

The Creative Guild has lined up speakers who are advertising luminaries here and abroad, a mixture of local and foreign award winners. Tackling different aspects of the topic will be: Emily Abrera, chairman emeritus, McCann Erickson Philippines; Yoly Ong, group chair and executive creative director, Campaigns & Grey; Ompong Remigio, creative director, Campaigns & Grey; Melvin Mangada, managing partner and executive creative director, TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno; David Ferrer, CD, BBDO; Prasoon Joshi, regional executive creative director, McCann Erickson Asia Pacific; Andy Greenaway, Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide; Mon Jimenez, Joint-CEO, JimenezBasic; Paul Prince, of Sweet Shop Production, New Zealand; Johnson Tan, ProColor PTE, Singapore; Peachy Pacquing, ECD, Grey Worldwide, Malaysia.

The Creative Summit will also give recognition to the highly-creative advertising materials released recently, from various local advertising agencies. It's a pat-on-the -back for these people whose entries made it or better yet, an opportunity to ask for a raise or get pirated - whichever comes first.

After the summit, on the same day, the 20th Ad of the Year Awards will be given out at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt 1. The awards ceremony starts at 8 p.m.

The Creative Guild is a good gauge on where we are in advertising with respect to the rest of the world. It also prods us to examine our recent works and see where we can take it further while fostering an environment full of healthy, or sometimes toxic, competition.

Bottom line, the Creative Guild continues to inspire and motivate the advertising industry so we can all become better in our craft. And just like any craft, it's something we need to continually perfect in order to come up with hopefully more brilliant, world-breaking, so-great-it-deserves-a-Golden-Lion ideas. Will it happen? Who knows.

The Creative Summit is open to the public. Tickets are priced at P4,000 for members of the 4-A's and P5,000 for non-members. For reservations, contact Vanne Tomada, HAS Secretariat at 813-4397/757-3891 or email 4asp@skyinet.net.

HAPPY FEET SANDALS OPENS ITS FIRST FREE STANDING STORE

Just recently, Happy Feet Sandals opened its 1st Free Standing Store at 197 Wilson Street corner P. Guevarra Street, San Juan Metro Manila. The event was highlighted with the traditional outlet blessing, coin/M&M's and Snickers Chocolate shower activity and the ceremonial Ribbon Cutting spearheaded by Chona Mapa and Placido Mapa Jr, vice chair of Metrobank. This red letter day for the Anonas family was graced by their partners, suppliers, business associates and the who's who in the industry specifically members of the United Print Media Group (UPMG), a very strong print organization composed of 23 Publications together with their other friends from media. For more information, contact Happy Feet at 725-2675 or telefax 723-5105, visit their website at www.happyfeetsandals.com. or write at queries@happyfeetsandals.com. Photo shows Chona Mapa and Placido Mapa Jr, vice chair of Metrobank , partly hidden in photo, Robbie Anonas CEO, and Noly Anonas, CFO, MMC Inc/Happy Feet Sandals.

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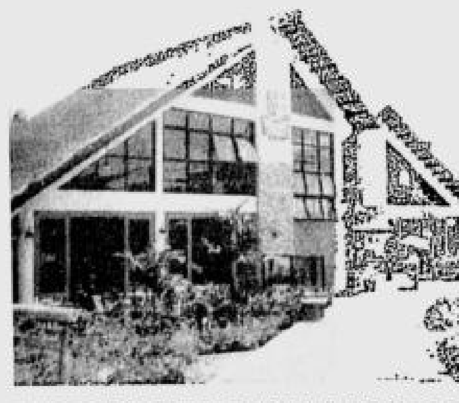
ALPO SUPPORTS THE PHILIPPINE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

PAWS promotes the protection of all animals in the Philippines and around the world. It is an organization that is dedicated to prevent cruelty, alleviate pain, fear and suffering in animals, and to promote a society based on humane principles. Shown in photo is PAWS shelter manager Jeffrey Chua and Alpo representative, Dr. Toti Baylon. PAWS is currently accepting donations in any form. For details please call PAWS at 475-1688.

FreshTouch

ANSELL FRESH TOUCH GLOVES FEATURED IN WOFEX

The most anticipated food show in the country today, Wofex organized by Premier Events Plus Group Inc (PEPGroup) will be held on Aug. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center. With over 500 exhibit booths, occupying the whole of WTC, Wofex covers the food machinery, bakery, import-export products, beverages, foodservice equipment among many others. Ansell Fresh Touch Gloves exclusively imported and distributed by PhilUSA Corp will be featured at the expo. In photo during the contract signing are (from left) Leslie Tubongbanua of PhilUSA and Joel Pascual of PEPgroup. For inquiries on Wofex, call PEPgroup at 929-7993 or 63, 436-4209, 426-9603, 920-8136, 437-3590 or email info@PEPGroup.com or check the website at www.PEPGroup.com.



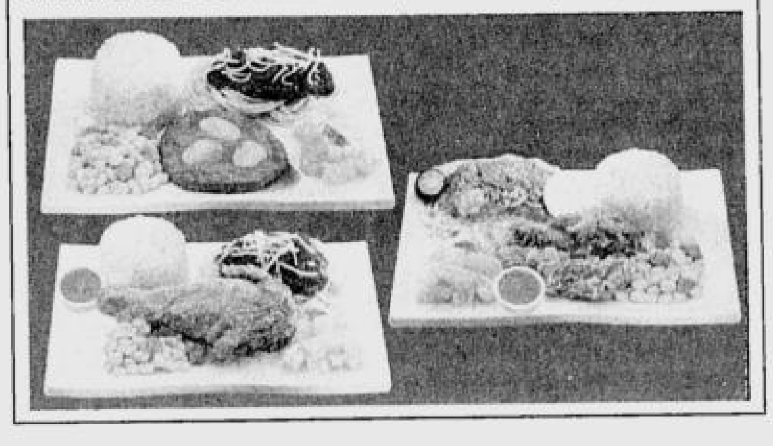
LEISURE FARMS' VILLAGE STORE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The public is invited to visit or shop at Leisure Farms' Village Store, a one-stop shop for high quality fresh produce from the farm, pots, farm tools, seed varieties, ornamental plants, bottled specialties, among others. Located just 3 minutes from Tagaytay-Lemery, Batangas boundary, Leisure Farms of Landco Pacific is the country's first residential hobby farming community. Committed to provide value in its developments, and has been a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that always dare to innovate. For more information, visit www.landcopacific.com.

ProductFILES

Super Meal deals from Jollibee

WHAT'S your food wish list? A satisfying meal to last you throughout the day. Maybe a bite of some fresh veggies. A taste of some great noodle dishes. And even a sweet dessert to go with your filling fare. Or why not all of the above? Jollibee makes your wishes come true with the new Jollibee Super Meals, a complete meal that's loaded with a little bit of everything delicious and delightful from your favorite fast-food chain. Choose from three exciting meals that's guaranteed to whet your appetites. Burger lovers will surely enjoy Jollibee Super Meal A which consists of a 1-piece Burger Steak with a corn and carrot side dish plus rice, a half serving of Jolly Spaghetti or Palabok Fiesta, and a Fruit Salad. It's affordably priced at P90 that comes with your preferred softdrink, or P80 as a solo meal. If chicken is your thing, try Jollibee Super Meal B for a bite of 2-piece Crispy Chicken Strips with a corn and carrot side dish plus rice, a half serving of Jolly Spaghetti or Palabok Fiesta, and a Fruit Salad. It's a great treat for only P100 that comes with your preferred softdrink, or P90 as a solo meal. For the Chickenjoy fanatics, there's Jollibee Super Meal C with everyone's favorite 1-piece Chickenjoy with a corn and carrot side dish plus rice, a half serving of Jolly Spaghetti or Palabok Fiesta, and a Fruit Salad. This crispylicious super meal is priced at P110 that comes with your preferred softdrink, or P100 as a solo meal. The Jollibee Super Meals is simply the perfect meal for busy and active working people who want a full and affordable meal that can match their big appetites for all things Langhap-Sarap.



HONOREES FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

At their recent alumnae homecoming, the College of the Holy Spirit Alumnae Foundation (CHSAF) honored four of its members who have shown exemplary service either to the church, to our country or to the international community. Shown are: CHS president Sr. Eufracia Marcojos, SSpS; CHSAF president Carmen Dayrit-Padilla; CHSAF moderator Sr. Pilar Gonzales, SSpS; honorees Rosalina Osmeña-Valencia, Ma. Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez, Ma. Consoliza Perez-Laguardia and Ma. Elena Nolasco-Espiritu representing Isabel Caro-Wilson.

MFI MISSION IN QUEZON

Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) scholars and staff, spearheaded by its president, Col. Alex T. Escaño, conducted a medical-dental mission in Tayabas, Quezon supported by the volunteers of Luis Palad Foundation of Quezon, the medical volunteers of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc and the medical team of Southern Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The mission was carried out with the full collaboration of the town mayor, Dr. Severina Nadres, shown shaking hand with Col. Escaño (inset) where 1,493 patients were treated.

BITS Clips

Alaxan Big Basketbol Bakbakan 2005

TO PROMOTE camaraderie and teamwork among the youth, Alaxan came up with a sports tournament close to the Filipinos' heart. The Alaxan Big Basketbol Bakbakan 2005 hopes to enliven the Bayanihan spirit between the participating barangay basketball teams from Metro Manila. On May 1, the tournament kicked off with the parade of players and their muses at the Ultra football field. The opening was graced by the Sexbomb Dancers and was covered by the noontime show "Eat Bulaga." A total of 1,706 barangays participated in the event. The semifinalists which consists of Barangay Marilag (North Cluster), Barangay Pio del Pilar (East Cluster), Barangay 425 (West Cluster), and Barangay 128 (South Cluster) was presented to the media recently. The basketball tournament is also coupled with a series of raffle draws. The empty blister foils collected from all the participating barangays double as raffle entries for the draws held every tournament game. The top 128 barangays with the most number of Alaxan empty blister foils collected qualified to play in the tournament. For audience participation, there are also basketball challenges held during halftime breaks such as 3-on-3s and 3-point and half-court shootouts where participants can test their skills and win cash prizes and Alaxan premium items. The grand champion team of the tournament will be bringing home P50,000 plus exciting gift packs from Alaxan. The top 3 barangays who have the most number of Alaxan empty blister foils (or raffle entries) collected at the end of the tournament will win for their barangay prizes such as free medical missions and a computer set. Championship round is set on June 4. Watch "Eat Bulaga" for tournament updates.

Experience Home and Motion at the Legacy

MONTGOMERY Place's pocket development The Legacy will be hosting a two-day event that will spotlight the best that Ayala Land Inc and Prestige Cars BMW have to offer. "Home and Motion at the Legacy" will be held on June 3 and 4 at the prime development. Cocktails will be held on the 3rd at 6 p.m., while the car and home show will be held the next day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be a rare occasion that will allow prospective Legacy homeowners and BMW car owners to glimpse the new units and models that are synonymous in quality and prestige. Form and function come together in an event that will give those seeking the utmost in compatible living and mobility a rare and memorable experience. The Legacy at Montgomery Place is located at E. Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City. For further information on the event, call Apple Albeza or Mylene Semsem at 242-6986 or 245-9288. For further details on the newly launched units and payment schemes, call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing on-site.

'Ang Lalaki Sa Aking Panaginip' now available

WHAT if someone you never met, someone you only see in your dreams, someone you shouldn't meet anymore, is the one and only someone for you? But how can a love so true become a reality if you will meet this someone at a time when meeting him, much less being with him, can't be a possibility anymore? This extremely beautiful novel is about understanding love's mystery and the fact that we should accept the reality that it has its own reason for coming and going into one's life.

From the makers of Anak Ng Pangit comes another unforgettable romance novel, Ang Lalaki Sa Aking Panaginip, written by Marijoy Valenzuela. Available in National Bookstore nationwide and Merriam & Webster Chinatown Branch, Moments Pocketbooks stays true to its promise to bring you beautiful and classic love stories you will never forget.

Back to Back to School

SING along star celebrities Chocoleit and Anton Diva offer a last bombastic blast of songs and laughter before the start of school entitled Back to Back to School (B2B2S). It is definitely a wonderful treat for all ages that appreciate hefty hilarity coupled with powerful and comic voices of these two amazing entertainers. What's more exciting is that ultra witty and funny Patricia Ismael jams with Chocoleit and Anton Diva as they tickle you to tears. Back to Back to School also features three of the Viva Hot Men Hunkies, McMiel Denison, Alkien Miranda and Ethan Zulueta. And to complete this visual feast is the grooves and moves of the Myxx Dancers in profound production numbers with our stars backed up with great music rendering of AKA Band with Lanie M. B2B2S is showing on June 3, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum in Greenhills Complex. Tickets are selling for P500, P700, P1,200 and P1,500. For inquiries and reservations, call 523-15-52.

13th Construction Show Cebu opens

THE 13TH Construction Show Cebu, touted as the biggest and longest-running construction exhibition in the southern Philippines, opens on June 3. The three-day event, organized by LA Ducut & Co Inc, in close coordination with Hardware Consolidated Int'l (HCI), will feature some of the biggest names in the construction and hardware industries. The exhibit has regularly gathered a wide array of innovations and expertise for building and construction under one roof. It will be from June 3 to 6 at the Cebu Trade Hall located at the 3rd floor of SM City Cebu. Exhibit doors open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Major sponsors include Cemex, Addmix and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For details, contact LA Ducut & Co Inc at tel. nos. in Manila 873-8202, 873-9047, 873-1198, in Cebu (032)232-3729 or 3740 or 412-9463 or 0917-322-1019 or email constructionshow@laducut.com.

Vaseline awards top graduates of 2005

MORE than 5,000 graduating high school students were given the Award for Academic Excellence by Vaseline Healthy Glow Shampoo of Unilever Philippines. More than 50 of the biggest Public High Schools in Metro Manila were given the recognition. This includes the area of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Mandaluyong, Pateros, Navotas, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Malabon, Valenzuela, Taguig , Marikina and San Juan. The award aims not only to recognize the remarkable achievement of the students but it also wants to inspire other students to strive hard for academic excellence. Among the top recipients of the Vaseline Academic Awards are Salvador A. Basino and Rachel Joy C. Bartan, valedictorian and salutatorian of Sta. Elena High School which bested more than 800 graduating students. Leading the 1,000 graduating students of Lakandula High School are Mark Reynaldo M. Arriesgado and Mary Chris D. Masula emerging as the valedictorian and salutatorian respectively.

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MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE
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MANDALUYONG NR SHAW BnewTwnhse 3stry 3br/3-4tb mdsrm/1-2grge P3.645M up 890346

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9210255 9219967 9209822

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SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb P3.860M up 8903461 loc 34

TOWNHOUSE 936-7086

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LOT

MANILA

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANILA

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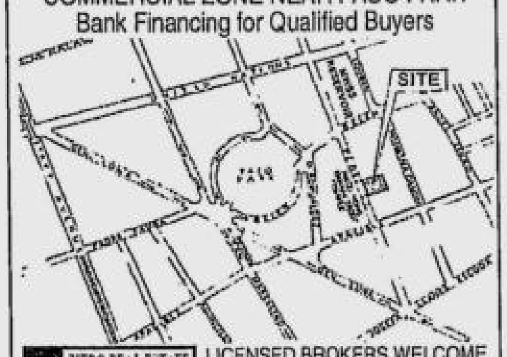

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on June 14, 2005. Thurs.at 2:30 in the afternoon Respectively Jan. 13 - Feb. 14,2005 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI June 2 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on JUNE 14, 2005, Tues. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, 1:30 and 6:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively Jan. 13 - Feb. 14, 2004.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer
(PDI - June 1, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude. for favor granted. EQM

INQUIRER

REBAP

SECOND EDITION

The **Inquirer National Classifieds** in partnership with the **REAL ESTATE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (REBAP)** brings forth the **2nd issue** of the **REBAP Magazine** - a tabloid sized supplement to be published on June 29, 2005.

The **REBAP Magazine** shall include quality listings of real estate properties for sale, for rent, for lease, joint venture, wanted to buy and services offered like surveying, titling, legal documentation and appraisal compiled by the **Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP)**.

This magazine will be dedicated to realty service practitioners, real estate companies, developers, builders, bankers, financiers, investors, property owners, appraisers and consultants and other products/services related to the real estate industry.

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1/4 PAGE	12.3 cms x 15cms	14,148.75
1/8 PAGE	12.3 cms x 7.5 cms	7,074.38

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
TIF Format
300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution)
CMYK Mode

3. To be circulated within Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Tarlac, La Union, Baguio and Pampanga
4. Announcement of the supplement to be released in the Classifieds Section
5. Free copies of the REBAP Magazine to be distributedon June 29, 2005 during REBAP's 2nd General Membership meeting
6. Insert on Inquirer's June 29, 2005 issue.

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Vicky Samson or Leny Maranan
email: rebapnational@yahoo.com

REBAP – is a national organization of licensed real estate brokers, registered with the SEC in 1980 and had the official sanction and recognition of the Bureau of Domestic Trade.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union

Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for more or less 39,950 MT or 799,000 bags Imported Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From Poro Point to Staging Warehouses within La Union

Receiving Warehouses	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Load/ Capacity Reqmt.	Approved Budget for the Contract
Poro Port Whse. (Imaginary)/ San Juan GID/Aringay Whse./ Caragay Whse./ Agoo Whse/Obar Whse.	400,000	30	12,000	2,800,000.00

B. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses within Region I:

Prov.	Lot No.	Receiving Whse.	DIK	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Load / Capacity Reqmt.	Approved Budget for the Contract
Abra	1	Pidigan Whse.	131.6	5,000	2	800	73,050.00
Benguet	2	La Union-Binalonan	82.0	70,000	7	2,800	671,300.00
	3	Binalonan - Baguio	72.0	70,000	10	3,000	1,225,000.00
I. Norte	4	Laoag GID	214.0	12,000	3	1,200	259,320.00
	5	Dingras Whse.	242.0	10,000	3	1,200	244,400.00
I. Sur	6	Tagudin FLGC	44.3	10,000	2	1,200	56,900.00
	7	Singson Whse.	71.0	6,000	2	800	49,860.00
	8	Chua Whse.	60.5	6,000	2	800	42,480.00
	9	Sta. Maria Whse.	91.7	5,000	2	800	53,650.00
	10	Bantay GID	130.5	7,000	2	800	101,430.00
	11	Tan Whse.	156.5	7,000	2	800	112,840.00
E. Pang.	12	Rosales Whse. I	110.0	50,000	5	2,000	610,500.00
	13	Binalonan Triplex	82.0	40,000	5	2,000	383,600.00
	14	Binalonan DM	82.0	17,000	3	1,200	163,030.00
W. Pang.	15	AlaminosGID	132.0	19,000	3	1,200	278,350.00
	16	Kazenbar IV	85.0	49,000	5	2,000	488,530.00
	17	Mangatarem	118.0	8,000	2	800	104,800.00
	18	Ferrer II	107.2	8,000	2	800	95,200.00
SUB-TOTAL				399,000			5,014,240.00
GRAND TOTAL				799,000			7,814,240.00

Trucks/units of prospective bidders must be classified as "Trucks-for-Hire". Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities as follows:

Activities	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	May 26-June 8, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	June 9, 2005 (3:00 PM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	June 21, 2005 (3:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/ accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than June 3, 2005

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd)RUBEN S. RIMANDO, CESO VI
Asst. Regional Director &
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – May 26 & June 2, 2005)

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MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-109

RE Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

DOMINGO YU/STO. DOMINGO SHIPPING,
Applicant.

x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
MV STO. DOMINGO-III	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

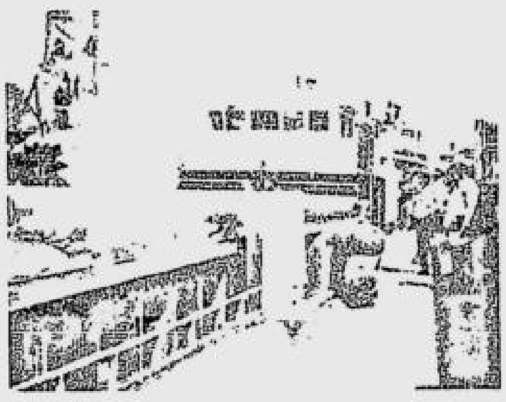
The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 30th day of May 2005 in Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI–June 2, 2005)



RICE UNLOADING AT ORMOC CITY
National Food Authority Ormoc grains officers led by Joaquin Juntilla, Vic Abrugar and Vic Dagoy supervise the unloading of 15,000 bags of rice from MV Seen Saar contracted from Vietnam. These stocks are intended for the rice needs of the nearby municipalities of Ormoc City.

SGV-DDI donates 50 books to the PMAP library

SGV-DDI, the Manila office of global HR consulting firm, Development Dimensions International (DDI), recently donated 40 books to the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). SGV-DDI President Medel T. Nera presented the books to PMAP President Lina A. Aseneta at PMAP's 506th General Monthly Meeting last May 25, 2005 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

Many of DDI's associates are noted experts in their fields. Collectively, DDI has authored more than 50 books and studies. Topics include succession management, teams, selection and assessment, competency-based HR solutions, performance management, leadership development, and high-performance work environments. SGV-DDI is proud to share this thought leadership with the PMAP community through a generous donation to the PMAP Library, a premier HR learning resource to help you realize your competitive advantage. Titles include DDI's recent publications *Grow Your Own Leaders* by Chairman and CEO Bill Byham, *Realizing the Promise of Performance Management* by President Bob Rogers, and global benchmarking studies on selection, leadership, and performance management.

The PMAP Library is located at 670 Lee Street in Mandaluyong City. Contact PMAP at 726-1588 or SGV-DDI at 638-2061 or inquire@sgvddi.com.ph

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female, at least 25 yrs. old
- Graduate of BSC, BSBA or related course
- Proficient in computer softwares/programs
- 2 yr. experience in office mgt./ secretarial position
- People-oriented & trustworthy

Pls. apply in person with RESUMÉ at Main Office, HIKOTEC, Inc. 872-2220 to 21 Benz Compd., J. Aguilar Ave., Pamplona III, Las Piñas City

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union

Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR HANDLING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Handling Services of NFA imported rice at the different NFA/Leased Warehouses in Region I, to wit:

	Approved Volume (in bags of 50 kg) for Transfer within the Region	Approved Budget for the Contract (Rate per bag of 50 kg (P) x Total Volume
1. NFA GID Warehouse, San Juan/ Staging Warehouse, La Union	729,000	P 2,187,000.00
2. NFA Loakan/NFA Kadiwa Warehouse, Baguio City	70,000	210,000.00
- La Union to Binalonan Triplex	70,000	210,000.00
- Binalonan Triplex to Loakan GID/Kadiwa Whse.	70,000	210,000.00
3. NFA GID Warehouse, Abra	5,000	15,000.00
4. NFA GID Warehouse, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	22,000	66,000.00
5. NFA GID Warehouse, Bantay, Ilocos Sur	41,000	123,000.00
6. NFA GID Warehouse, Binalonan/ NFA Rosales Warehouse, Rosales, Pangasinan	107,000	321,000.00
7. NFA GID Alaminos/, NFA GID Warehouse, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	84,000	252,000.00
TOTAL	1,198,000	P 3,594,000.00

Interested Handling Contractors may bid on any or all warehouse-destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	Date/Time
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	May 26-June 8, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	June 9, 2005 (1:00 PM)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	June 21, 2005 (1:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelop A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

RUBEN S. RIMANDO, CESO VI
Assistant Regional Manager &
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – May 26 & June 2, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-156	1 unit SSL/VPN NETWORK EQUIPMENT (Secure Socket Layer/Virtual Private Network) Inclusive of: • 500 concurrent User Licence • Desktop Adapter, 10 pack • Host Adapter • 24 hrs./7 days a week support for one year for parts and labor • SSL/VPN Network Equipment is an IT solution that provides secured remote access for employees, business partners and customers	P 4,500,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **June 29, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **June 16, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – June 2 & 9, 2005)

REBAP CEP seminar

The Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (REBAP) will sponsor a Continuing Education Program Seminar (CEP) for Real Estate Brokers Renewal of Licenses on June 11 & 12, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. at 2/F CREBA Bldg., South A St., corner Alejandro, Roces Ave., Quezon City.

For more details please contact Vicky or Lenie at 373-2280/81 or 374-2496.

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF CEBU
ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE COUNCIL
Office of the Cebu Provincial Governor
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE

Notice is hereby given that due to numerous requests, the deadline for the submission of LETTER OF INTENT and other required pre-qualification documents from proponents for the commercial development, thru a Build Transfer Operate (BTO) scheme, of a property owned by the Cebu Provincial Government has been extended to June 30, 2005. Property details and development terms are as follows:

> Lot No. 3-A-2 and a portion of Lot No. 3-A-1-B, containing a total area of 27,351 square meters, more or less, located in Banilad, Cebu City, previously occupied by the Cebu International School and Cebu Tennis Club.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

a. Rental rate of at least P35.00/sq.m./month with an escalation rate of 5% per year, applicable on the sixth year of lease and every year thereafter;
b. Sales percentage share of 1/2 of 1% of gross sales or P200,000.00, whichever is higher, paid monthly to the Province of Cebu;
c. Investment cost for site development and structure construction not less than P250M, with building and site development plan subject to approval by the Economic Enterprise Council. Built up facility to be turned over upon completion to the Province of Cebu and to be fully Insured with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in accordance with the appraisal of GSIS, in favor of Cebu Province. Premium shall be paid by the proponent;
d. Operation of facility and use of the property shall be for a maximum of twenty-five (25) years.

For ready reference and guidance, copies of the titles, technical descriptions and sketch plan of the said lot are available, for a fee of P5,000.00 at the EEC Secretariat, Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, 3rd Floor, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City. Notice of Bidding shall be issued to qualified proponents.

(Sgd.) GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA
Cebu Provincial Governor

(PDI - May 26 & June 2, 2005)

THE
HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

Manila Memorial Park
SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
CEBU
DAVAO
BULACAN

AMABLE "CONGCONG" V. AGUILUZ

His loving parents **Sonny** & **Juliet**; Wife **Inday**; Children **Trixie, Brandon, Brylle** & **Bianca**; sister **Joanne**; & Aunt **Ruth** (Tita **Honey**).

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel - Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 02, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park - Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Antipolo Cathedral.

He will surely be missed by his family.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul,
for the Lord has been good to me." (Psalm 116:7)

EDEN B. UNTALASCO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on May 27, 2005 at the age of 66.

A loving wife to her husband **Tony**; responsible mother to her children and children-in-law **Jun** & **Berlie**, **Mark** & **Lerma** and **Eden** and sweet grandmother to her grandchildren **Joshua, Julienne, Angel** and **Eloy**.

Her body lies in state at Manila Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the Blue Heaven Queen's Row East after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." –*John 11:25-26*

SALVADOR "Badong" P. SEÑAR, SR., CPA

Caramoan-Ragay, Camarines Sur
(Former Regional Director, BLGF, Region V,
Department of Finance)

Peacefully joined our Creator
on May 31, 2005 at the age of 74.

His loving wife, former **Mayor Maruja**, and bereaved children: **Nenivetch, Former Mayor Salvador Jr.** and **Mayor Lourdes** of Magarao, **Marlon** and **Eden, Samuel** (†), Camarines Sur First District **Board Member Warren** and **Ma. Tina, Dr. Lyndon** and **Lynette** and **Giovanni** and **Sharon**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Funeraria Imperial, Naga City. Interment will be at Sto. Niño Memorial Park on Saturday, June 4 after the 10:00 A.M. Mass at the Basilica Minore, Brgy. Balatas, Naga City.

We shall never forget the love we have for Jesus, and He will guide us. Let Jesus be always in our hearts.

"Even when I walk
through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For you are
at my side, your rod and
staff give me courage..."

Psalm 23:4

FEDERICO R. PAGUYO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 22, 2005 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife, **Matrona**; children and children-in-law **Gloria** and **Edgar**, **June** and **Junior**, **Nelson** and **Ester**, **Dante** and **Violy**, **Eddie** and **Delia**, **Melvyn** and **Norma**, **Elmo** and **Evelyn**, **Robin** and **Nene**, **Lucy** and **Molly**, **Ruth** and **Oscar**; 30 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Our dearly beloved Sister

MILAGROS R. FORONDA

Of Vintar, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined our Lord
on May 28, 2005 at the age of 64.

Her brothers and sisters **Celina, Manuel, Nestor, Belen, Jopie, Johny, Francis, Maria**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12-G, Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, June 3, 2005 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington.

DELICIA MALIXI FENIX

Now rests in the eternal embrace of our Lord.
She joined her husband Pablo on the 31st of May 2005 at the age of 81.

Her children **Theresa, Michaela** and **Yen Makabenta, Christina** and **Aris Abalos, June** and **Winnie Teehankee, Veronica** and **Danny Villavicencio, Joji, Nina** and **Roy Reyes, Jenny** and **Nani Lim** and **JP** and **Menchu Fenix**; grandchildren **Federico, Horacio, Paulo, Carlo, Dante, Jael, Amiel, Sara, Jinki** and **Dante Bellosillo, Ana, Pancho** and **Isis**; great grandchild **Miguel**; brothers **Pablo, Godofredo** and **Conrado**; sister **Milagros**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to remember her in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel 1 of the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church in Philam Village, West Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 AM Mass at Philam.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations for Maryknoll Sisters mission work care of Sister Joji Fenix, Maryknoll Sisters, 74 P. Burgos St., Project 4 Quezon City.

Always caring...
INQUIRER
OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union

Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 01

The National Food Authority, NFA Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union invites qualified Cargo Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Arrastre and Stevedoring Services in the discharging of more or less 20,000 MT or 400,000 bags rice imports at Poro Port, San Fernando City with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P 3,455,200.00.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

	Activities	Date
1.	Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	May 26-June 8, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2.	Pre-Bidding Conference	June 9, 2005 (10:00 AM)
3.	Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	June 21, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

RUBEN S. RIMANDO, CESO VI
Assistant Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI May 26 & June 2, 2005)

Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, cor EDSA,
Mandaluyong City, 1501
P O Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 – 7221155 • E-mail info@poea.org.ph
Website. www.poea.org.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 06

Series of 2005

TO : ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE SPECIAL HIRING PROGRAM FOR SABAH

Pursuant to the thrust of the Administration to facilitate the employment and documentation of Filipino workers bound for Sabah, the following guidelines are hereby issued.

I. **Registration of Sabah Principals**

Foreign principals/employers in Sabah shall be registered upon presentation of the following documents:

1. Special Power of Attorney
2. Manpower Request
3. Visa or equivalent document
4. Master employment contract

Request for additional job orders may be granted upon submission of a new manpower request.

II. **Documentation of New Hired Workers Bound for Sabah**

1. The following documents shall be submitted for the processing of documents of new hired workers by accredited principals in Sabah:
   a. Request for Processing (RFP)
   b. Worker's information sheet
2. A POEA processing fee of P100 and OWWA membership fee of P1,275 shall be charged for the processing of each worker hired.
3. The prevailing terms and conditions of employment under the laws of Sabah, including the prevailing wage onsite shall be applied to the workers
4. The POEA-authorized placement fee may be charged from the workers.

III. **Documentation of Returning Workers Bound for Sabah**

1. Individual Processing. The following documents shall be presented by the worker for his documentation as a returning worker:
   a. Valid passport
   b. Proof of employment in Sabah
   c. Visa or work quota
2. Processing Fee. A POEA processing fee of P100 shall be charged for the processing of each returning worker processed for Sabah.

All previous issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby deemed repealed and superseded

This Circular takes effect immediately.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

(PDI –June 2, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of 100,000 MT or 2.0-Million bags 5% and 15% brokens Imported Rice 2005 Arrivals.

PARTICULARS	VOLUME (IN MT)	INDICATIVE PRICE	5% BROKENS	15% BROKENS
Farmer's Organizations	20,000	Ex-vessel	P1,026.00	P 970.00/bag
Retailers	20,000	Ex-warehouse	P1,076.00	P 1,010.00/bag
Open to all interested buyers	60,000			

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be held at 10:00 AM at FDC Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on the following dates or until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
June 8, 2005	June 10, 2005

All interested bidders/buyers are required to sumit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing; wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting June 8, 2005 at DMO OCD, 5th Floor, National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C. from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Espie Tecson at tel. nos. 712-15-72 and 712-17-08.

Bid documents will be available on June 8, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000 for FO's/Retailers and P5,000.00 for all interested buyers.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL IBANEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition

(PDI – June 2 & 4, 2005)

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MOND B ESS ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

WINE Depot's Hazel Huelves, Joanna Gallent and Grace Miranda

Wine, women and song

A love for the grape brought together three women from different backgrounds

By Cesar Miguel G. Escaño
Contributor

> *If all be true that I do think.*
> *There are five reasons we should drink:*
> *Good wine-a friend-or being dry-*
> *Or lest we should be by and by-*
> *Or any other reason why.*
> *-Henry Aldrich, "Five Reasons for Drinking"*

HAZEL Huelves, one of the owners of Wine Depot, says Filipinos have become more educated when it comes to wine drinking. "They're now looking for quality, character and rated brands."

OMNI Blue

Wine Depot has almost all the top wines to satisfy every vino-phile. Its 500-sq.m showroom in Makati City carries 50 brands from the best wine-producing regions around the globe.

Whether nostalgic for the sharp tannins of Old World wines (France, Italy and Spain) or pining for the fruity flavors of the New World (New Zealand, Australia, Chile, South Africa and California), the intelligent and the informed go to Wine Depot.

Women of wine

A love for the grape brought together three women from different backgrounds.

Call them the Three Graces of Wine. Joanna Gallent, a former flight attendant, manages the retail business. Grace Miranda, a registered nurse, takes care of the wholesale operations under a sister company called Winedirect. The company supplies hotels, restaurants, and other establishments around the country. Huelves, a former model, handles corporate clients and the Wine Club.

"The Wine Club is a membership club. Regular members, after accumulating a certain amount of purchases, become privileged members who receive benefits from partner establishments. The Wine Club allows members to purchase from its online store," explains Huelves.

OMNI Citrus

It also holds regular wine tasting sessions, as well as lectures on wine appreciation.

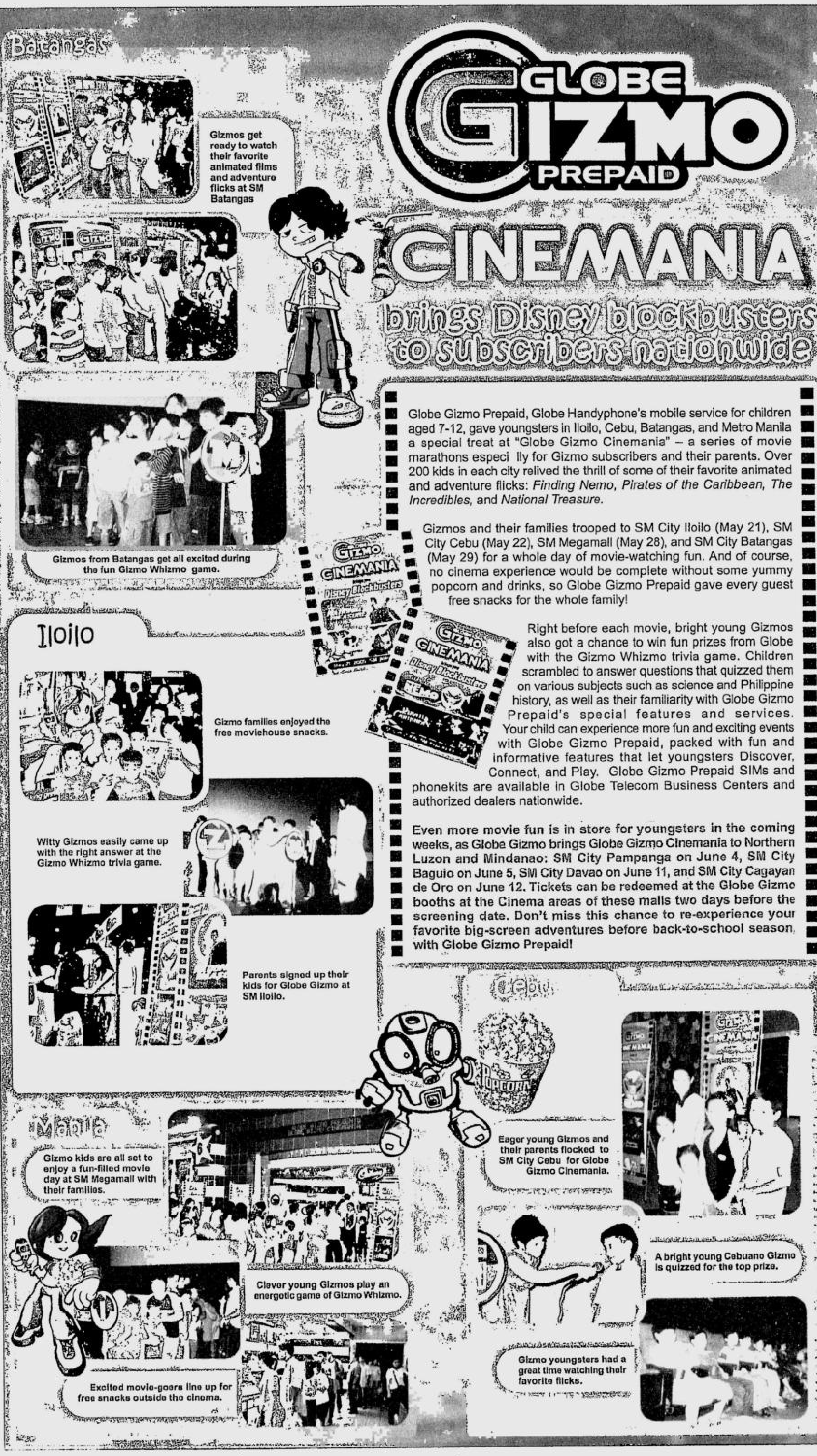
The Wine Depot showroom is on Malugay Street near the corner of Ayala Avenue. It opened recently a new branch at the Ortigas Town Center on Julia Vargas Avenue. Another outlet will open soon at the West Gate business district in Alabang.

Only the best

Shopper-friendly is the byword of Wine Depot. Each bottle carries a tag containing detailed information including a brief history of the wine variety and taste notes (ex. tarty, strawberry, sharp tannins). The tags also give food-pairing suggestions, shelf life and ratings from the Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, and other award-giving bodies.

Around 70 percent of stocks come from Australia, the closest wine-producing region to the Philippines. Brett Tolhurst, an Australian consultant for Wine Depot, says the continent is perhaps the fastest-growing wine producer in the world. Part of the reason is Australia's vineyards are among the

WINE/C3



Gizmos get ready to watch their favorite animated films and adventure flicks at SM Batangas

Gizmos from Batangas get all excited during the fun Gizmo Whizmo game.

Globe Gizmo Prepaid, Globe Handyphone's mobile service for children aged 7-12, gave youngsters in Iloilo, Cebu, Batangas, and Metro Manila a special treat at "Globe Gizmo Cinemania" – a series of movie marathons especially for Gizmo subscribers and their parents. Over 200 kids in each city relived the thrill of some of their favorite animated and adventure flicks: *Finding Nemo, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Incredibles*, and *National Treasure.*

Gizmos and their families trooped to SM City Iloilo (May 21), SM City Cebu (May 22), SM Megamall (May 28), and SM City Batangas (May 29) for a whole day of movie-watching fun. And of course, no cinema experience would be complete without some yummy popcorn and drinks, so Globe Gizmo Prepaid gave every guest free snacks for the whole family!

Right before each movie, bright young Gizmos also got a chance to win fun prizes from Globe with the Gizmo Whizmo trivia game. Children scrambled to answer questions that quizzed them on various subjects such as science and Philippine history, as well as their familiarity with Globe Gizmo Prepaid's special features and services. Your child can experience more fun and exciting events with Globe Gizmo Prepaid, packed with fun and informative features that let youngsters Discover, Connect, and Play. Globe Gizmo Prepaid SIMs and phonekits are available in Globe Telecom Business Centers and authorized dealers nationwide.

Even more movie fun is in store for youngsters in the coming weeks, as Globe Gizmo brings Globe Gizmo Cinemania to Northern Luzon and Mindanao: SM City Pampanga on June 4, SM City Baguio on June 5, SM City Davao on June 11, and SM City Cagayan de Oro on June 12. Tickets can be redeemed at the Globe Gizmo booths at the Cinema areas of these malls two days before the screening date. Don't miss this chance to re-experience your favorite big-screen adventures before back-to-school season with Globe Gizmo Prepaid!

Gizmo families enjoyed the free moviehouse snacks.

Witty Gizmos easily came up with the right answer at the Gizmo Whizmo trivia game.

Parents signed up their kids for Globe Gizmo at SM Iloilo.

Eager young Gizmos and their parents flocked to SM City Cebu for Globe Gizmo Cinemania.

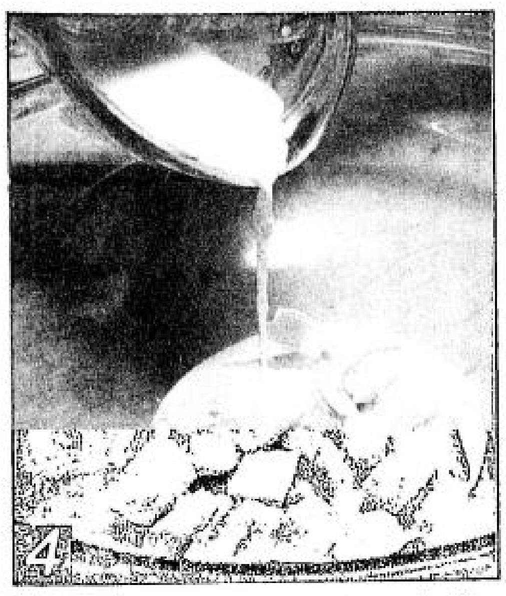
A bright young Cebuano Gizmo is quizzed for the top prize.

Gizmo youngsters had a great time watching their favorite flicks.

Gizmo kids are all set to enjoy a fun-filled movie day at SM Megamall with their families.

Clever young Gizmos play an energetic game of Gizmo Whizmo.

Excited movie-goers line up for free snacks outside the cinema.



IN A BOWL, combine bread cubes and milk. Let stand until bread softens. Mash until smooth.

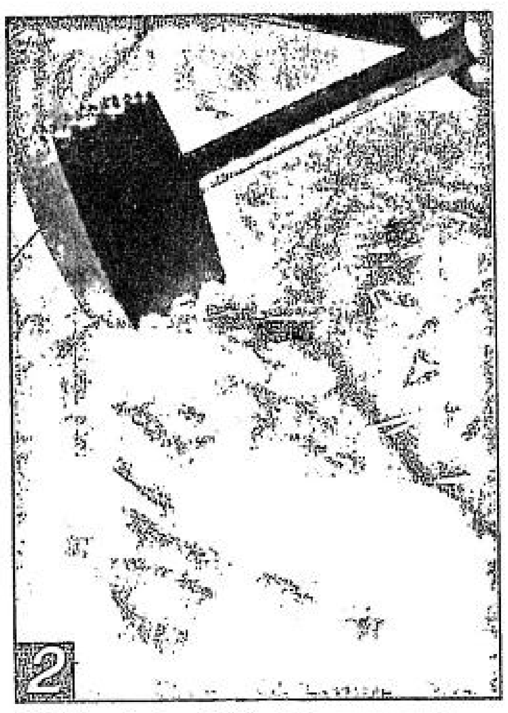
ADD *giniling*, bacon, *chorizo*, pickles, raisins, tomato sauce, egg, flour, cornstarch, salt and pepper.

BLEND well.

TO assemble, lay a few pieces of chicken breast on a sheet of Glad aluminum foil, skin side down.

Chicken Galantine made easy

TRANSFER chicken to a bowl and marinate with soy sauce, *calamansi* and pepper mixture for at least one hour. Keep refrigerated.



WRAP each piece in Glad cling wrap and pound until ¼-inch thick.

DE-BONE chicken breasts. Leave skin on.

STEP BY STEP

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WITH celebrations going on all over the country as May festivals give way to June weddings, impress your guests—if you can afford to entertain—with this chicken galantine, which can be an excellent addition to the buffet.

CHICKEN Galantine

Galantine started as a classic French dish resembling a meat-wrapped pâté. It is made of poultry, meat or fish.

The stuffed meat roll is formed into a symmetrical loaf, wrapped in cheesecloth and gently cooked in stock. It is then chilled, glazed with aspic made from its own jellied stock and garnished with items (such as pistachios, olives and truffles) that have been included in the filling.

Galantines are normally served cold in slices.

Though the galantine recipe may sound difficult, San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center suggests simply using easily available ingredients and doing away with the use of cheesecloth and stocks to make the task easier.

"This recipe can be your appetizer or main course, served either hot or cold," says Maricel Manalo, product application specialist of San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center (tel. 6716044). "As appetizer, have thinner galantine slices; as main course, slices should be thicker. It's also ideal as *palaman* for breads."

Though many prefer it served cold accompanied by cold asparagus and potatoes or a simple salad, galantine is just as delicious served hot.

De-boning the chicken may seem complicated but it is quite simple if you know how. Make sure the chicken is really cold when you begin.

In this recipe, chicken breast is used with the skin as it gives added moisture and flavor.

Steaming time for chicken galantine is about an hour starting, Manalo says, from the moment the water is boiling. Otherwise the chicken will be undercooked.

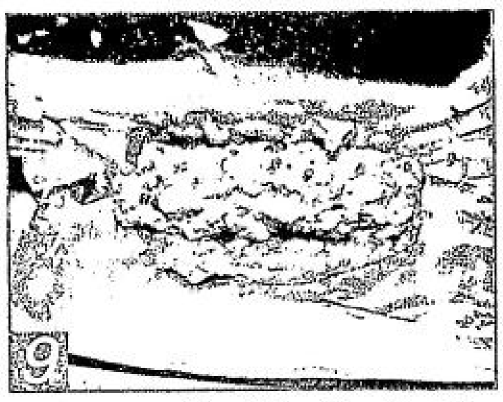
Chicken Galantine can be prepared ahead of time and can be kept frozen for a month.

Ingredients

1 k Magnolia Chicken breasts
¼ c soy sauce
2 tbsp *calamansi* juice
ground black pepper
Stuffing:
1 c bread cubes
1/3 c Magnolia fresh milk
500 g Magnolia chicken *giniling*
2 pc Pure Foods *chorizo* Bilbao style, chopped finely
½ c Pure Foods honey-cured bacon, chopped finely
½ c raisins
½ c pickle relish
¼ c tomato sauce
1 pc egg
3 tbsp cornstarch
1 tsp salt
½ tsp ground black pepper

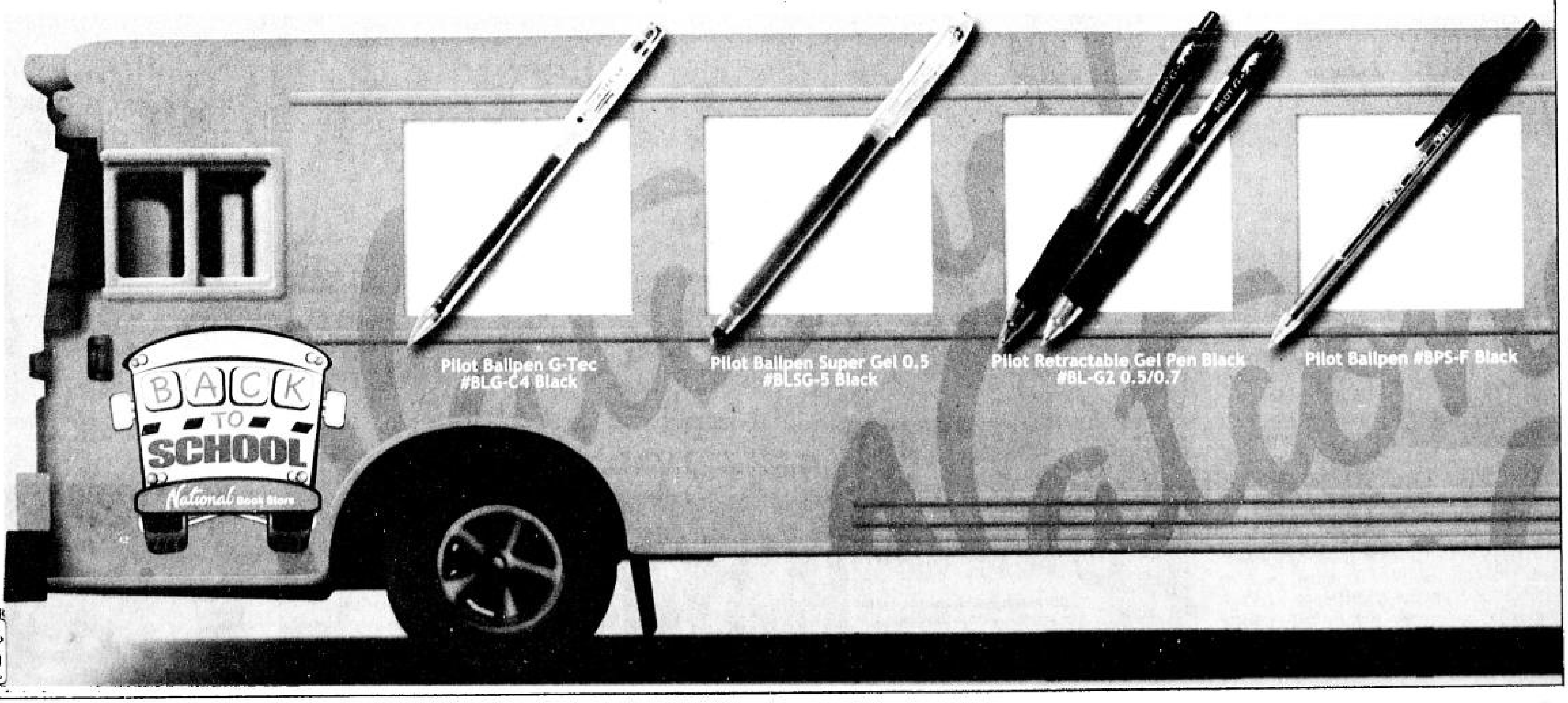
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

PLACE about a cup of the *giniling* mixture onto the marinated chicken breast.



ROLL to secure filling. Twist sides of the foil to keep its shape.

STEAM for one hour. Let cool then chill. Slice prior to serving.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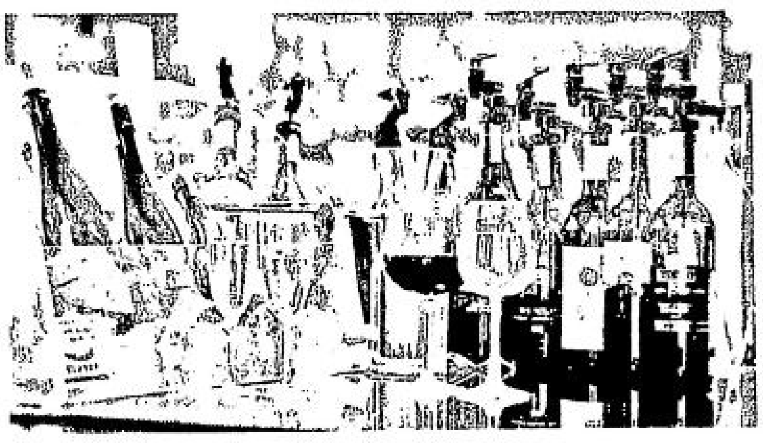
SOME 50 brands from the best wine-producing regions around the globe are at Wine Depot.



AROUND 70 percent of stocks come from Australia, perhaps the fastest-growing wine producer in the world.

Wine, women . . .

From page C1

oldest disease-free plantations in the world, Tolhurst explains.

"Several years ago, disease almost wiped out the vineyards in Europe," says Tolhurst, a third-generation winemaker from South Australia, where over 60 percent of the country's wine is produced.

The southern continent's vineyards produce wine that seem to be infused with a bubbly personality. Not surprisingly, "Sunshine in a Bottle" is the slogan of Southern Australia wine makers. Wine from that region is very drinkable and easy on the palate, Tolhurst says.

He adds "Sunshine in a Bottle" also suggests you can open a bottle of Australian wine and drink it immediately.

OMNI Red

Rooted

Wine evokes the character of the land whence it came. The roots of the grape vine that dig deep into the earth, absorb the personality of the soil.

"With French wines, the alcohol taste is located at the front while the fruit tastes are at the back," says Tolhurst. Wines from France and other places in the Old World are for people who appreciate vintage wines with sharp full-bodied flavors.

"Australian wines are the opposite (of French wines)," continues Tolhurst. "The fruit tastes are located at the front while the alcohol taste is at the back. The fruity flavor makes for a very approachable wine."

Wine drinking is an art and not for those who simply want to get drunk. Swishing the wine around the mouth allows the taste buds and sense of smell to detect the finer flavors of the wine.

OMNI NV

The nose is invaluable in wine tasting. Specialized nerves in the nose are necessary to identify subtle flavors.

Tasting-wine.com prescribes three steps in wine tasting: look, smell and taste.

The color of the wine reveals much about its character and hints at its taste. The wine should be poured into a clear glass and held in front of a white backdrop. (A tablecloth or piece of paper is adequate.)

Swirling the wine in the glass helps the senses of sight and smell. When deep colors remain consistent even when the wine is swirled, it is an indication of full body. Swirling releases the aroma of a wine, called the bouquet or nose.

The most important quality of wine is balance between sweetness and acidity. To get the full taste, take note of the following: Get the initial taste after taking a sip. Swish the wine inside your mouth and draw in some air to detect the deeper textures and flavors of the wine. Is it light or rich? Smooth or harsh? Notice the aftertaste. How long did the taste last? Was it pleasant? Wine drinking becomes more pleasurable with each sip.

Call Wine Depot at 8933335 or visit the Winedirect website at www.winedirect.com.ph

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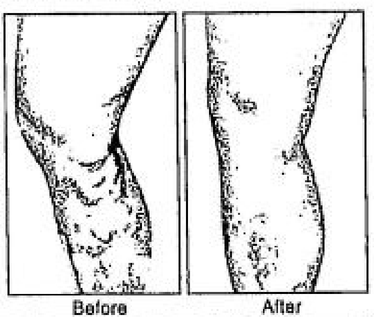

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JUNE-JULY SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

June 8 - 10, Wednesday - Friday - MERINGUE WORKSHOP. A 3-day Hands-on workshop for bakers and hobbyist. The white, light and heavenly meringue will be made into cookies, cakes, spoon desserts, toppings and more. You will enjoy making Meringue Cookies Pavlova, Canonigo, Brazo de Mercedes, Sansrival, Mango Torte, Concorde and more for P3,500.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 - 4.00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 14, Tuesday - BASIC BREAD MAKING. Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiter will teach you the secrets of successful breadmaking for White Bread, Pan De Sal, Francis Rolls and European Bread Rolls. One on one instruction. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10.00 - 4.00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 16, Thursday - ADVANCED BREAD MAKING. Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiter will teach you the secrets of successful breadmaking for French Baguette, English Brown Bread, Cinnamon Raisin Bread, Walnuts & Sultana Bread. One on one instruction. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 4.00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 25, Saturday - CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS. This class is a must for anyone with a passion to create a dazzling chocolate desserts. Chef Adoree Chong-Uy will demonstrate a variety of specialties like Double Chocolate Rum Cake, Fudgy Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Blitz Torte, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Dome and Graham Chocolate Roulade for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 28, Tuesday - YUMMY BAKED GOODIES. Welcome Chef Hannah Herrera, our latest addition to the CACS faculty formerly DOME Café's Kitchen Operations Manager. She will demonstrate her favorite baked goodies such as Angel Food Cake, 2 Variations of Pound Cake, White Chocolate Pecan Bars, Strawberry Cream Puff and Mango Cream Puff for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

July 01, Friday - THE SPOON DESSERTS. Chef Junjun will make his popular easy to do desserts served and eaten with a spoon. Great for instant parties and big catering jobs. His line-up are the following: Strawberry Cream Magic, Raspberry and Mandarin Gelatine, Tiramisu, Apple Bake with Cinnamon Sauce, Cappuccino Pannacotta, Bread and Butter Pudding and Chocolate Budini P1,200.00 from 10.00 - 3:00 p.m including all ingredients.

COOKING CLASSES

June 02, Thursday - THAI FAVORITES 1. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thakupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Pad Thai, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.

June 03, Friday - ASIAN NOODLES. Chef Chariya will teach us different kinds of noodles from Thailand, Vietnam and other countries of our Asian nation. Recipes include Mee Krob, Kwoey Teow, Laksa, Khao Pun and Lad Na. Including all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

June 04, Saturday - SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 3. New sets of sausages from Chef David like Asturian Chorizo, Chinese White Sausage, Fresh Cheese Sausage (Krainer type), Longganisang Vigan; Lemon Chicken Sausage, Fresh Sulzwurst, Adobo Sausage and English Bangers. The workshop includes all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10.00 - 2.00 p.m.

June 07, Tuesday - FLAVORS OF VIETNAM. Chagio, Nuoc Cham Dipping Sauce, Pickled Vegetables, Nem Nuong Hanoi, Gene's Pho, Goi Ga (Vietnamese Chicken Salad), Cha Ca Thang Long and Xuong Xa Hot Lou are the recipes from Chef Gene and the Omni Saigon Cooking School. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 pm.

June 12, Sunday - PAELLAS & RISOTTOS 1. Recipes from Chef Gene like Wild Mushroom and Saffron Risotto with Parmesan, Seafood Risotto with Proscuitto, Squid Ink Paella, Paella alla Majorcana and Arroz con Mariscos from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. for P 1,200.00 including all ingredients.

June 15, Wednesday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 3. Buffalo Wings, Breaded Calamari with Cocktail Sauce, Gruyere and Bacon Souffle, Herbed Tuna Casserole, Roasted Gourmet Chicken and Mocha Mud Pie are the recipes from Chef Gino. All the recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.

June 18, Saturday - DAVE'S COMFORT FOOD: LUTONG BAHAY. Another set of new recipes will be shared by Chef David Fajardo, recipes that can be cook regularly in our own homes. The recipes are Nilaga, Sinigang, Adobado and Menudo Espesyal. The recipes include all ingredients from 10.00 - 2:00 p.m. for P1,200.00 NEW CLASS.

June 19, Sunday - SIMPLE AND EASY FISH DISHES. Simple and easy fish dishes from Chef David such as Assam Curried Pampano, Sizzling Bangus Nuggets, Sisig, Kinilaw na Likod ng Bangus, Fish Meuniere with Hazelnut Butter, Smoked Tilapia Tom Yam, Steamed Apahap Fillet with Chinese Ham and Mushrooms and Fish Teriyaki from 10.00 - 3.00 p.m. for P1,000.00 including all ingredients.

June 20, Monday - FAVORITE CATERING DISHES. Two Classes in One, Chef Junjun teaches all the dishes of his 2 Catering Classes from 10.00 - 4.00 for P2,000.00. This class is for all housewives, cooks and anyone who wants to learn new dishes for their catering business. Recipes include Chorizo and Mushroom Platter, Assorted Salad with Pesto Vinaigrette and Garlic Ranch Dressing, Mushroom and Barley Soup, Italian Short Ribs Stew, Chicken Imperial, Royal Lapu-lapu and White Chocolate Tiramisu

June 21, Tuesday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 4. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Recipes include Cream of Spinach Soup, Corn, Asparagus and Green Salad; Fish fillet al Caparas; Meatloaf with Pan Gravy and Pannacotta with Honey for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m

June 22, Wednesday - CHINESE DIMSUMS 2. Sequel to Chef Ana's dimsum class 1 here's another set of Chinese dimsums will be demonstrated to learn on. The recipes are Spareribs, Pork and Shrimp Wonton, Shark's Fin Siomai, Buchi and Glutinous Rice with Chicken in Lotus for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 - 3.00 p.m

June 23, Thursday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 5. French Onion Soup, Frito Misto, Salmon Fillet en Papilotte, Breaded Veal Cutlet and No Sweat Tiramisu are the recipes that Chef Gino will teach us. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

June 27, Monday - BASIC FILIPINO COOKERY. Chef Gene will teach us simple recipes that include Apalit Kare-kare Special with Bagoong Gusado, Samai Rice, Guinataang Hipon sa Dilaw, Davao Bulalo, Kapampangan Adobo and Manga at Bilo-bilo for P1,000.00 from 10.00 - 3.00 pm.

June 29, Wednesday - ITALIAN COOKING 1. Don't you just love Italian food, Chef Junjun will tantalize your palate with easy to make Italian dishes like Eggplant Antipasto, Marinated Mushrooms, Chickpea and Rosemary Soup, Spareribs with Sage, Tuscan Style Chicken and Coffee Semifreddo for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 pm.

June 30, Thursday - SPANISH FOOD FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE. New easy to learn and special Spanish recipes from Betina K. Legarda that can be learned in just one day, the recipes are Catalan Bean Soup (Sopa Catalana), Calamares Rellenos (Stuffed Squid), Orange Chicken Salad (Ensalada de Naranja), Arroz con Pollo (Paella Style), Carne Con Chocolate (Special Beef with Chocolate) and Cordero Chilindron (Lamb with Colored Peppers). From 10:00 - 3:00 pm. Including all ingredients for P1,500.00. NEW CLASS.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations. TESDA ACCREDITED PROGRAM. This program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare buffets and be involved in actual functions. Learn the CACS method and be the Global Chef! Our program is the only school with its own restaurant outlet and its own internship program of 400 hours and Externship or an outside practicum program of 300 hours. It is also the only program with the mostly widely used software hospitality system worldwide that gives its graduates the global edge. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used. NO HIDDEN COSTS!

Classes will start on June 13. Enrollment is ongoing.
For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.

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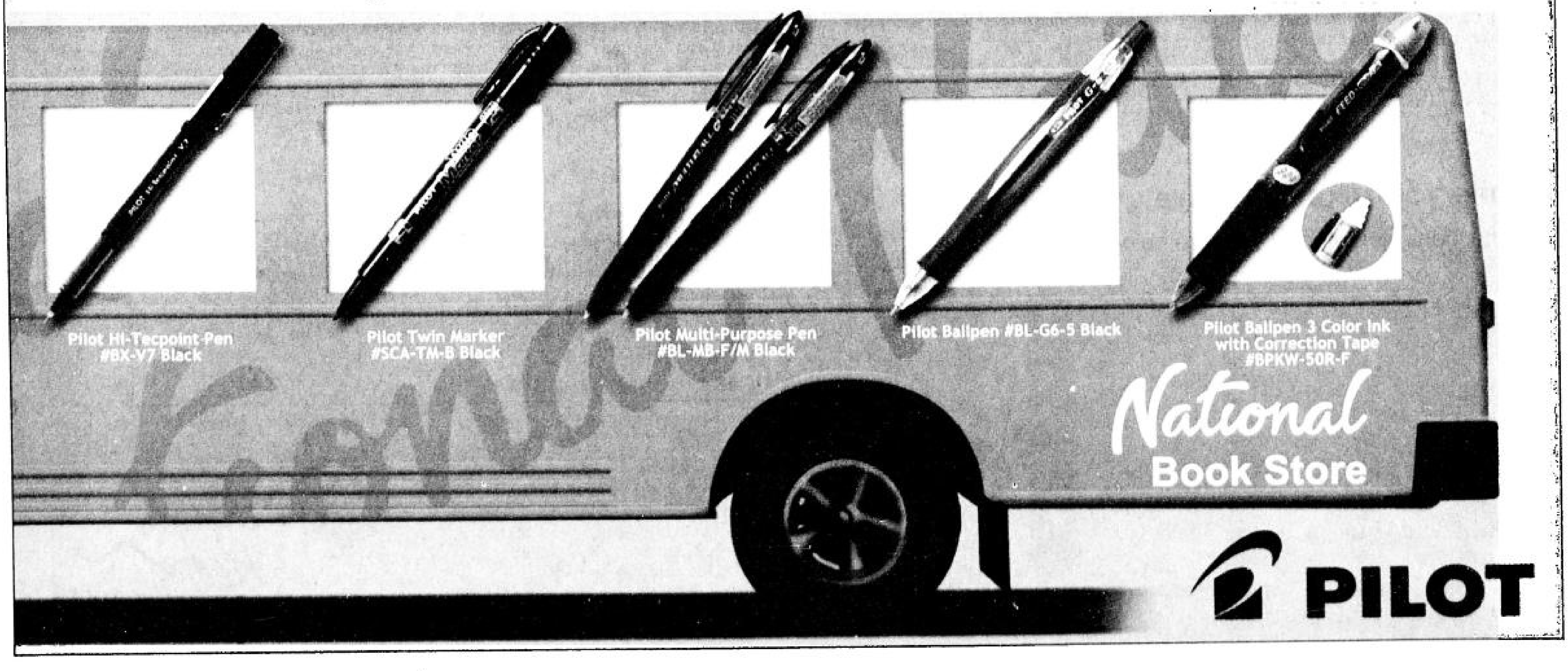
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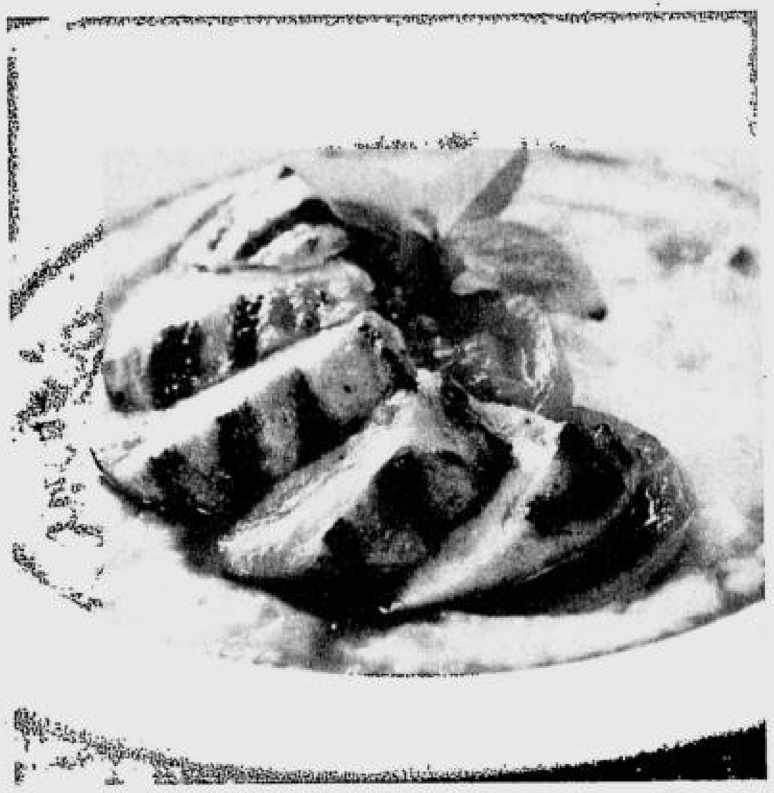
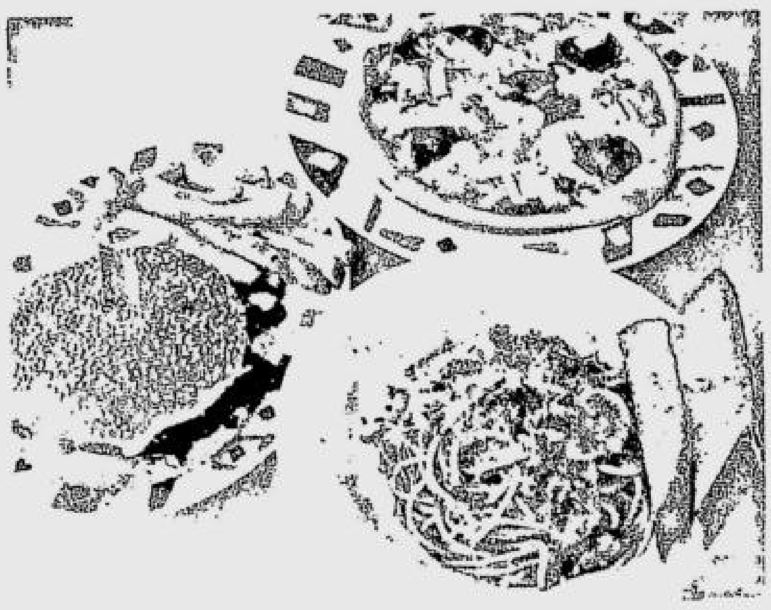
Back-to-school treats



MANILA Diamond Hotel opens its new coffee bar, Kohikan. The coffee bar takes pride in the distinct flavor, body and aroma of its charcoal-roasted coffee. Aside from the original hot coffee blends, Kohikan also serves cold variation coffees, smoogees or shakes and delicious meals and desserts, such as Teriyaki Chicken with Wasabi Cream Sauce, Grilled Pampano Sandwich, Spaghetti Mentaiko and Diamond's famous Ube Ensaymada. Call 5283000 local 1118.



BURGOO offers Kids Eat Free (maximum of four kids) for every adult or main entree ordered. Indulge in Oklahoma-style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chops, Shrimp and Ribs Platter, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Linguini, Country-Style Fried Chicken and Seafood Caesar Salad. Burgoo is located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC; 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; 3/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; The Promenade, Greenhills; 2/L, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center. Call 9277424/ 6875254/ 8981815/ 7264663/ 9136112.

CHINESE Monk Casual Dining Restaurant presents Kids Eat Free. With every adult or main entree meal, all kids will automatically be treated to a free meal (maximum of four kids only). Souvenir items such as notepads, ballpens and keychains will be given away. Chinese Monk is located at the ground level, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 8974129.

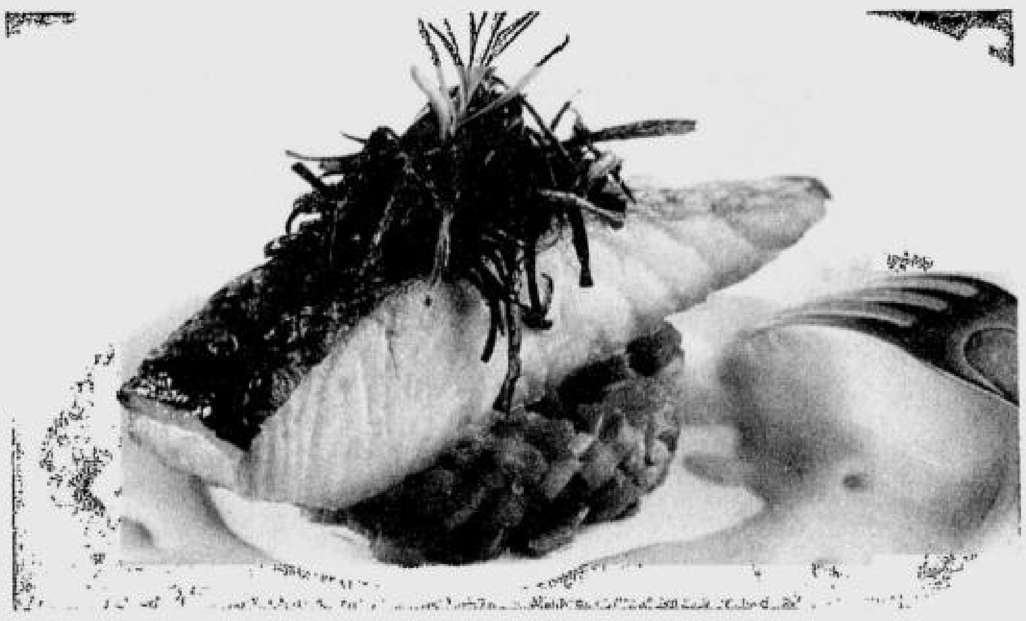
THE PENINSULA Manila's Old Manila offers the white asparagus festival menu until June 11. It includes Salad of White Asparagus with scallops, gambas, fragrant herbs and black truffle vinaigrette; Cassolette of White Asparagus with seared foie gras and port wine reduction; Cream of White Asparagus with tuna tartar and lemon oil; Breaded White Asparagus with slow roasted loin of veal, young spinach and quail egg mustard vinaigrette; Glazed White Asparagus with poached beef tenderloin, potato beignets and creamy snails; Fried White Asparagus with herbed salmon fillet, glazed baby leeks and vanilla syrup; and White Asparagus Risotto with crispy barramundi and king prawns with morel cream. Call 8872888.

DINING OUT

RICHMONDE Hotel's Richmonde Grill presents its Chef's Recommendations, such as Grilled Beef Mignon on Oyster Sauce with Broccoli Spears & Buttered Flat Noodles, Pork Medallion with Courgette on Braised Cabbage and Grilled White Cheese, Lapu-Lapu and Mussels with Purple Leek, Mashed Potato and Dill Saffron Sauce, Grilled Salmon Fillet on Bed of Julienne Vegetables and Shrimp Sauce, Grilled Chicken Skewers on Mongolian Rice with Fried Tofu and Leek Confit. Call 6387777.

CAFÉ HAVANA holds Gambas Fiesta. Enjoy prawns that are grilled and topped with chili garlic, simmered in crab fat or in cocomilk and ginger, cooked in a spicy cream sauce or sautéed in olive oil. Café Havana is at Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila. Call 5218097.

CAFÉ Adriatico features Coffee Frost Express in all its outlets. Take your pick of Coffee Smoothie, a choice of strawberry, mango or chocolate flavors blended with vanilla ice cream and topped with whipped cream; Orange Punch, a blend of espresso, vanilla ice cream, and chilled orange juice topped with whipped cream; Coffee Rootbeer Float, a new twist to the traditional rootbeer float, served with brewed coffee; Frozen Coffee Drambuie, coffee frost topped with whipped cream and spiked with flaming Drambuie; and Chocoffee, a blend of espresso, milk, and chocolate, topped with whipped cream and crème de menthe. Café Adriatico outlets are located in Remedios Circle, Malate; Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, QC; Westgate Center, Alabang; and Eastwood, Libis. Call 5222593/5220403.



INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie offers an a la carte lunch menu of Provencal and Mediterranean dishes. Diners can order as much as they like from the menu for the price of P1,200+ per person. They can also savor choice wines for P600+ per person. Available Monday to Friday, 12 nn-3 p.m. Call 8159711.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Benkay Japanese Restaurant features the grouper in a seven-course set menu for June. On the other hand, Deli Shop offers Orange Mango Delight, the hotel's cake of the month. Available in all outlets this month is Piña Loco drink which is served with a stuffed toy. Call 8673333.

Beyond bread and butter

THERE is more to bread than just something to be slathered with butter, jam or marmalade.

Here, Gardenia shares a few recipes to demonstrate there is more than one way to break bread with family and friends.

Savoury Bread Pudding

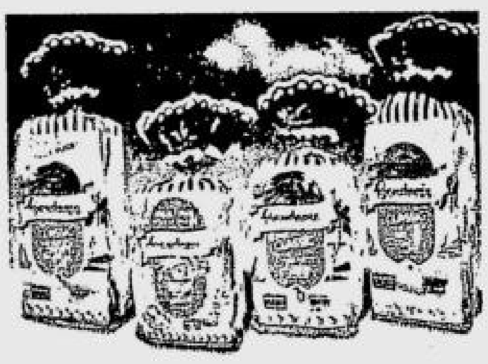
1 pc Gardenia Focaccia
3 tbsp margarine, garlic flavor
1 can cream of chicken and an equal amount of milk
100 g mixed vegetable
1 pc onion, diced
1 tbsp butter
black pepper to taste
dash of ground nutmeg

Split Gardenia Focaccia horizontally. Cut top half into rough squares. Dice the other half, mix with some margarine-garlic flavor and toast or gently sauté in a non-stick pan till crisp. Remove and set aside.

In the same pan, sauté onion and mixed vegetables in butter. Add in cream of chicken and slowly stir in the milk. Bring to a boil and turn off heat. Mix in the toasted Gardenia Focaccia cubes. Season with crushed black pepper and ground nutmeg to taste.

Pour mixture into an ovenproof casserole and lay the top with Gardenia Focaccia squares. Brush with more margarine (garlic flavor). Cover casserole with aluminum foil and bake at 180-200°C for 20-30 mins. Remove foil and serve hot.

Makes 4-6 servings



Chicken Pastel Pandesal

15 pcs (sliced) Gardenia Pandesal
2 c chicken breast (cooked, chopped)
1 425-g can mushroom (drained, chopped)
1 can sweet corn (whole kernel)
1 pc red onion (chopped)
3 cloves garlic (minced)
½ tsp salt
3 tbsp cooking oil
¼ tsp basil leaves (whole, dried)
¼ tsp rosemary leaves (dried)
1/8 tsp black pepper (ground)
Sauce:
1/3 c chicken broth
1 can evaporated milk
3 tbsps all-purpose flour
1/3 c cheese (grated)
2 tbsps butter (salted)
¼ tsp salt
1/8 tsp rosemary
1/8 tsp basil leaves

Heat oil in a pan. Sauté garlic and onion. Add chicken, salt, black pepper and herbs. Add corn and mushroom and cook for another 5 minutes.

Prepare sauce. Melt butter. Add flour. Cook for 1 minute. Add chicken broth, milk, grated cheese, herbs and salt, stirring continuously. Cook until thick.

Combine cooked filling with prepared sauce. Mix thoroughly. Top Gardenia Pandesal with 2 tbsp of Chicken Pastel filling. Makes 15 servings.

Gardenia Chicken and Bacon Sandwich

1 400-g Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread
500 g chicken breast fillet, boiled, diced
1 ½ c bacon, chopped, fried
2 c mayonnaise
1 tbsp honey
2 tbsp parsley
½ c seedless grapes, chopped
6 slices American cheese
salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl except cheese and Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread. Spread the mixture on one side of Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread and top with American cheese. Top with another slice of Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread. Cut the sandwich diagonally.

Bake in the oven toaster at medium heat until golden brown and crispy. Secure the sandwich with a toothpick. Serves 6.

8 easy steps for perfect pasta

IS cooking the perfect al dente pasta a problem for you? Follow these eight simple steps to have pasta just the way you want it.

1. Use a pot large enough, at least six-quart size, to give pasta space to "move" freely around.

2. Use plenty of water. For one pound of pasta, use at least six quarts of water.

3. Salt helps create a well-seasoned dish. Add about 1 tbsp of salt per gallon of water.

4. Allow the water to reach full, rolling boil before adding the pasta. When pasta is put in water that has not yet reached boiling point, it releases natural starches, that act like glue. Since the pasta is simply sitting in the water, the strands stick together.

5. Wait for water to boil again after adding the pasta. For pasta strands, like spaghetti or linguine, stir the pasta until it has wilted and become submerged in the cooking water, then cover the pot until the water returns to boiling point.

When the water is boiling again, uncover the pot and finish cooking uncovered so the water would not overflow.

6. Stir the pasta two or three times throughout the cooking process. Pasta cooks in 8-10 minutes. Do not leave it unattended so you don't end up with soggy pasta.

7. Never add oil to pasta as this will make it resistant to the sauce.

8. The only way to judge if your pasta is al dente is by tasting. The texture should be both firm and tender. When this texture is achieved, drain the water. Do not rinse pasta for this washes away most of the starches and nutrients. Add the sauce and serve.

Remember also to use only the finest pasta like Colavita. Made of 100-percent durum wheat and all-natural ingredients, Colavita Pasta comes in a variety of shapes and cuts suitable for any sauce or recipe.

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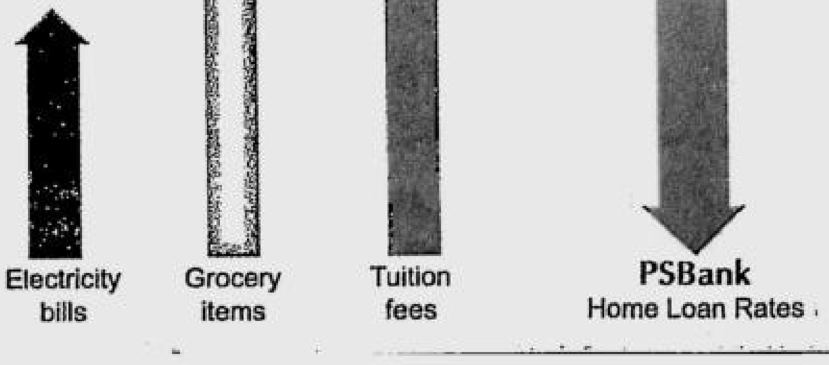

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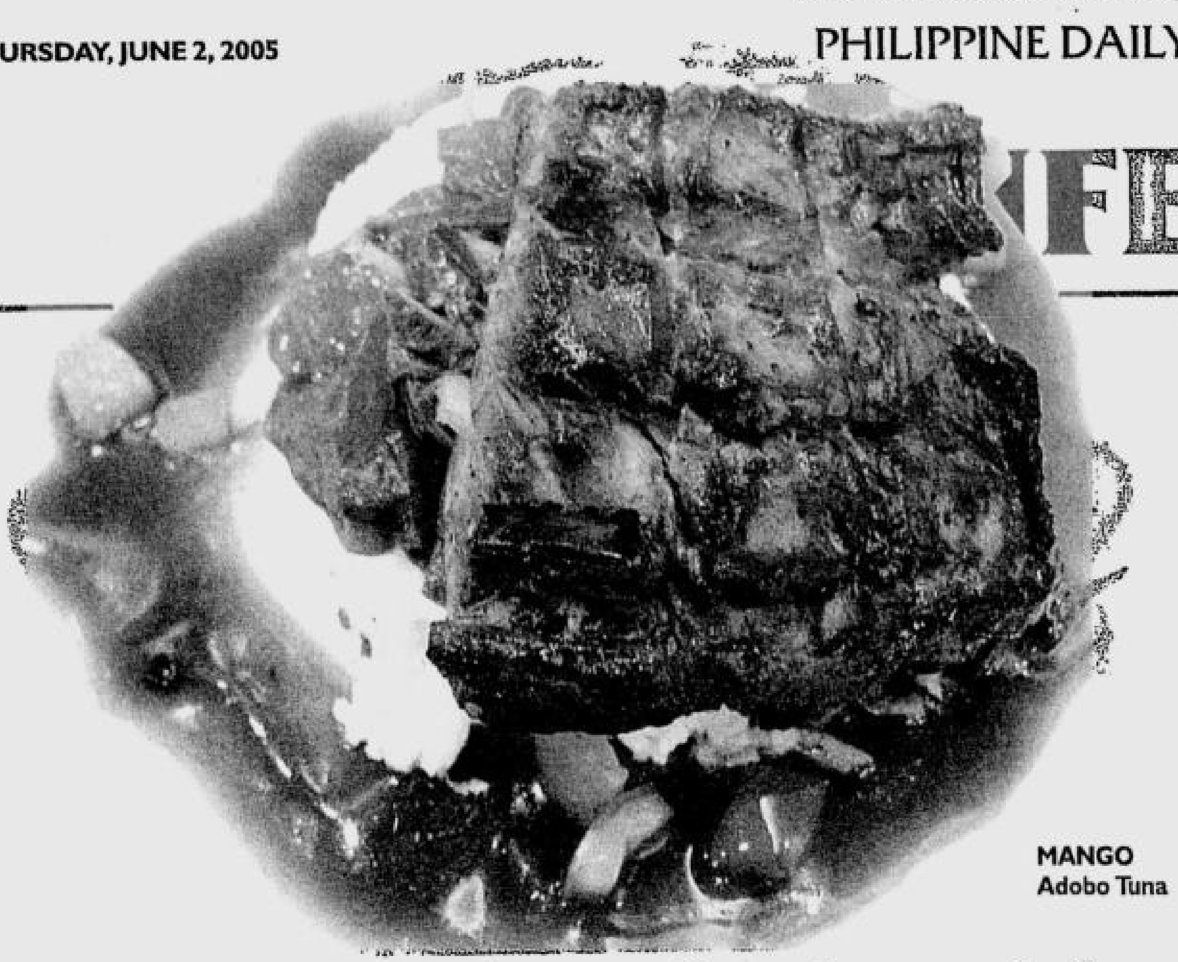


MANGO
Adobo Tuna

Heavenly place for breakfast

At Heaven and Eggs, you get the chance to be served by 'angels,' waitresses with wings

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

A FEW weeks ago I was asked by my good friend Eric Pe Benito to join him for brunch and try a restaurant on Timog called Heaven and Eggs. With a name like that, what was I supposed to think?

As I entered, I found the restaurant squeaky clean, designed to look like a garden in the country underneath a pale-blue sky, with little swing-like benches, sunflowers and, if I remember right, even watering cans. Best part was it had that wonderful crisp scent of "newness" with waitresses garbed in angel wings! I guess that's making a statement for "Heaven."

The "Eggs," I soon found out, connoted breakfast fare. At first glance, I thought the menu was a mighty intensive one for a place so quaint, serving mostly breakfast food from dawn till dusk (if I remember right, their restaurant hours are 6 a.m.-1:30 a.m.)

After studying the menu closely, the food was in fact a twist and turn of every sort—comfort fusion food that catered to practically every diner's fancy for breakfast, lunch, *merienda* or dinner. Waffles, tuna mango *adobo* (interesting), sandwiches, nachos with mangoes, Spam sushi, steaks, sausages, omelets, rice meals and unending decisions to make for your side dishes.

A fair warning though, their portions are large yet luckily affordable! If you like diner-style pancakes or if you want to eat but don't know what it is you're craving for, chances are you'll find it in Heaven and Eggs.

I am sending this text as a reader. Would you happen to have a recipe for Shanghai Fried Rice, the traditional one?

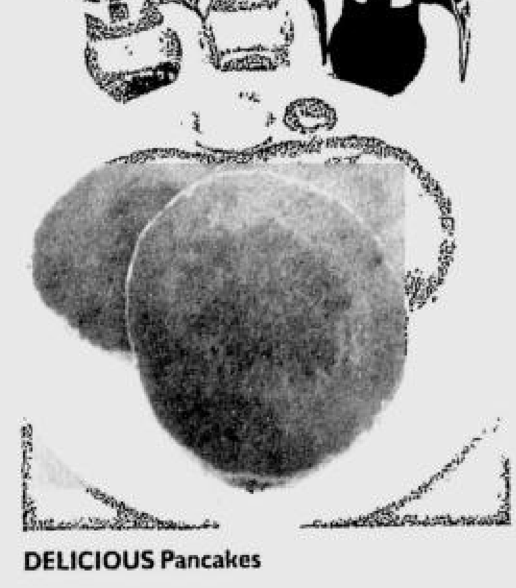
PEQUE GALLAGA

My dearest Peque, after receiving your second text that read... "*Hoy* Aspiras! You owe me a recipe for Shanghai Fried Rice!" I trembled and started searching and researching. Knowing the palate you possess, I could not, for the life of me, give you just any recipe. So I called my favorite Chinese chef of whose food, both fusion and traditional, I remain a big fan. According to Good Earth's chef Henry Cheung his recipe is the "uppity" kind, served in finer Chinese food establishments and soon to be served in his restaurants as well.

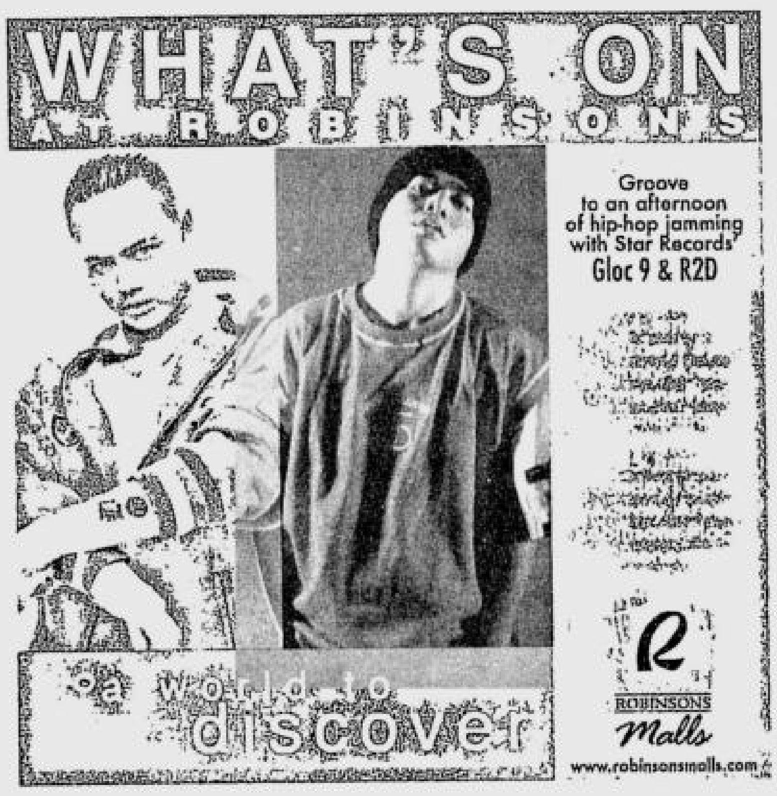
Shanghai Fried Rice

3 c day-old rice
2 ½ c Yunnan ham, (finely chopped, add 1 tsp of sugar, set aside)
2 tbsp sun-dried *liempo*
1 egg, scrambled (cooked in 1 tsp of oil in a pan, set aside)
9 leaves native *pechay* (originally snow vegetable but *pechay* is a good substitute)
2 tbsp chicken broth
5 cloves garlic
1 tbsp *hibe*, dried baby shrimp

HEAVENLY/ D3



DELICIOUS Pancakes



Groove to an afternoon of hip-hop jamming with Star Records' Gloc 9 & R2D

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1. JUNE 6 - 10 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P10,500.
Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly
NEXT SCHED : JULY 4 - 8
2. JUNE 4 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - MUFFINS - MUFFINS - P3,000.
Cinnamon - Crunch Sweet Potato, Onion & Shallots, Country Apple Sauce, Choco Chip, Carrot Nut, Banana Walnut Muffins.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 2
3. JUNE 13 - 16 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - P10,500.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 11 - 14
4. JUNE 15 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500.
Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin w/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilling.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 13
5. JUNE 11 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P3,000.
Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread
NEXT SCHED: JULY 9
6. JUNE 20 - 24 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P12,500. (for whole courses)
P2,500 - JUNE 20 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,500 - JUNE 21 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,750 - JUNE 22 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
P2,500 - JUNE 23 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,750 - JUNE 24 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 19 - 22
7. JUNE 20 - 24 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE - P4,500.
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling; b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium; c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes; e) Mask or Maskara - of your choice.
***COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS for appointment ***
NEXT SCHED: JULY 20 - 24
8. JUNE 18 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P3,000.
Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for Diabetics.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 16
9. JUNE 27 - JULY 1 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500.
For whole courses or Learn to make 30 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
NEXT SCHED: JULY 26 - 29
10. JUNE 25 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - TAPAS - P3,000.
Spanish Omelette, Fish Pastries, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Pescado frito, Albondigas Ensalada de Pollo & Mallorcan Pizza
NEXT SCHED: JULY 23
11. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - EDIBLE GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P2,500.
BY APPOINTMENT

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"CAKE COLLECTION BOOK 3,"
"A GOLDEN CELEBRETION IN COLD PORCELAIN BOOK 4,"
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LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jona 893-8935	SUBIC Beth 252-6514
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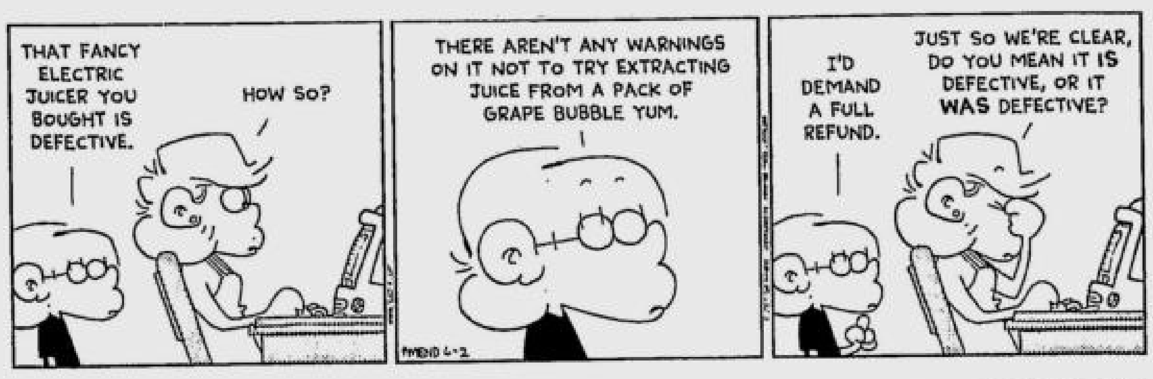
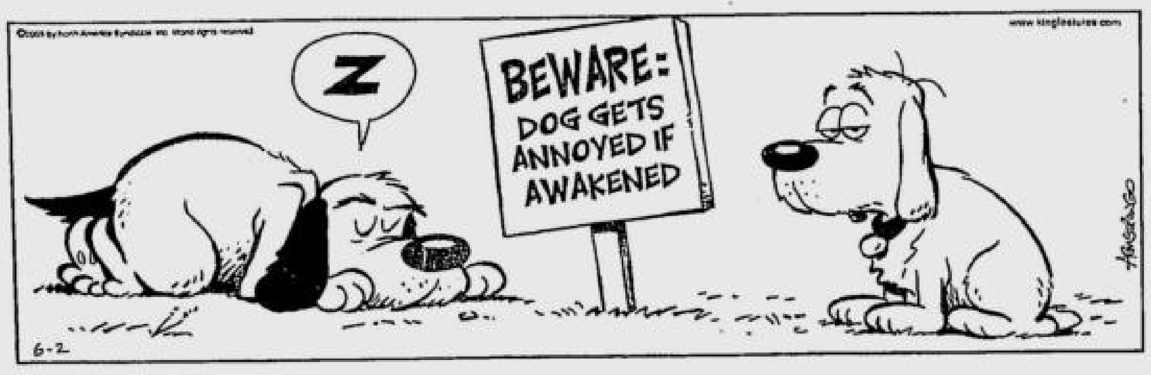
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THAT FANCY ELECTRIC JUICER YOU BOUGHT IS DEFECTIVE.
HOW SO?
THERE AREN'T ANY WARNINGS ON IT NOT TO TRY EXTRACTING JUICE FROM A PACK OF GRAPE BUBBLE YUM.
I'D DEMAND A FULL REFUND.
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, DO YOU MEAN IT IS DEFECTIVE, OR IT WAS DEFECTIVE?
AMEND 6-2

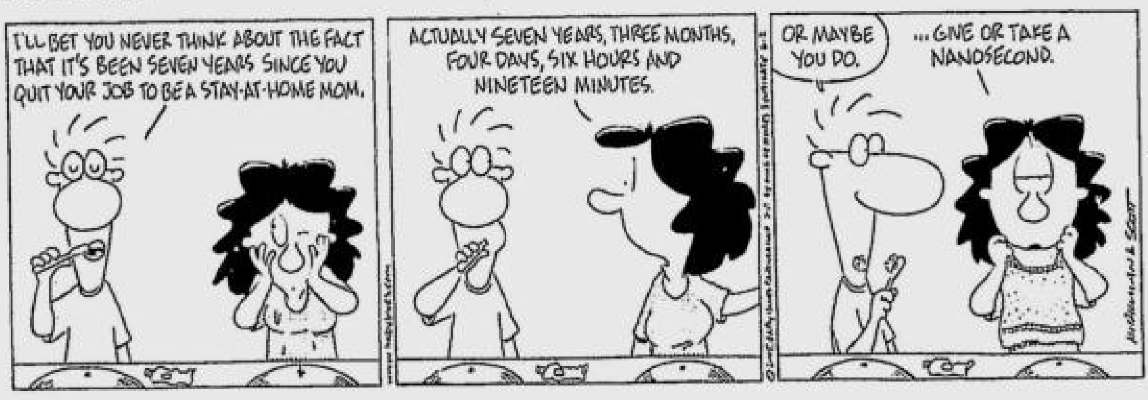
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Z
BEWARE: DOG GETS ANNOYED IF AWAKENED
6-2
www.kingfeatures.com

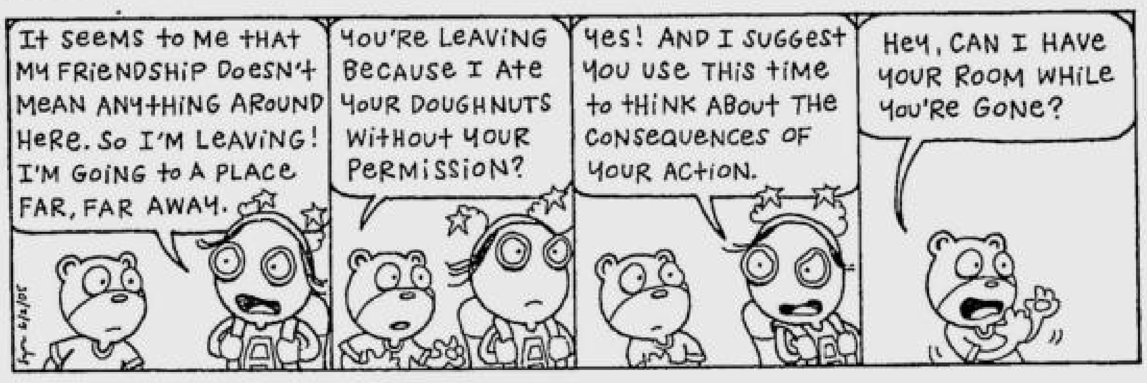
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'LL BET YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE YOU QUIT YOUR JOB TO BE A STAY-AT-HOME MOM.
ACTUALLY SEVEN YEARS, THREE MONTHS, FOUR DAYS, SIX HOURS AND NINETEEN MINUTES.
OR MAYBE YOU DO.
...GIVE OR TAKE A NANOSECOND.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


It seems to me that my friendship doesn't mean anything around here. So I'm leaving! I'm going to a place far, far away.
You're leaving because I ate your doughnuts without your permission?
Yes! And I suggest you use this time to think about the consequences of your action.
Hey, can I have your room while you're gone?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a problem-solver with a very inventive mind. You love to find solutions to difficulties. You are practical, resourceful and adaptable. Your life is full of surprises and drama, but nothing daunts you. You love freedom but will not shy away from commitment. The year ahead is the end of a nine-year cycle in your life.
Birthdate of: Charlie Watts, musician; Dana Carvey, actor: Carol Shields, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Yesterday's cooperation is gone. Today, power struggles with others are likely. You have deep feelings bubbling up within you. (You might not even be aware of what you truly feel.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will clash with group energy today. You might have a falling out with a friend. Basically, each of you thinks that he or she is right. Your best bet is to preserve the friendship! (Forget today's issues.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Power struggles with bosses and authority types are practically unavoidable today. Be polite to VIPs, including the police. And also be polite to your parents.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't get into arguments about politics or religion today. It's not worth it. You won't change anyone's mind; you'll only create enemies!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have to respect the property of others. You might feel rebellious today about taking care of others. Don't voice your complaints today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Arguments with partners and close friends are practically unavoidable today. People are touchy! This is not the day to convince anybody of your point of view about anything! Take it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Interruptions to your work are likely today. Don't get in a fight with co-workers. If something out of the blue causes hiccups in your routine, don't blame others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Parents must be extra-vigilant about children. This is definitely an accident-prone day for children. In many ways, it's an accident-prone day in general. Take care of all your responsibilities.

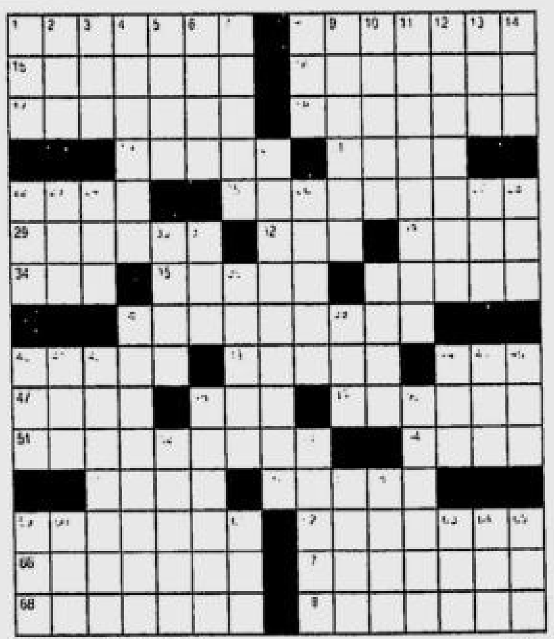
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be careful about electrical or fire-related accidents in the home today. Guard against all mishaps, both at home and with family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful you don't say something offensive to somebody today. You won't mean to do this, but things can easily leak out of your mouth. Or you might suddenly blurt out the truth. Avoid power struggles with siblings and relatives.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Impulse buying could get you in trouble today. Think twice before you purchase something. Money doesn't grow on trees—not in this country.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel rebellious, restless and impatient today. Make sure this doesn't lead to an argument with someone. Take precautions against accidents. Be cooperative and patient.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
6/2/05

ACROSS
1 Make an impact
8 Pennant decider
15 Melodic opera passages
16 Ring-shaped
17 Start of Anais Nin quote
18 Climbing the walls?
19 Throat prob.
21 Archipelago member
22 Fencer's weapon
25 Part 2 of quote
29 Meaningful gesture
32 Highway abbr.
33 Sugar source
34 Game counter
35 Kangaroo feature
37 Runs for the hills
38 Part 3 of quote
40 Provide quarters for
43 Poet Doolittle
44 Not many
47 Possesses
48 Vue or Bronco
49 Well-grounded
51 Part 4 of quote
54 Process flour
55 Norway's largest city
56 Does some ushering
59 Nasty-mouthed
62 End of quote
66 Means
67 Like rose bushes
68 Speak to
69 All __ go!

DOWN
1 Grow hello
2 Mine find
3 Upper limit
4 Ready for removal
5 Money __ everything!
6 Type of mat or bell
8 __-relief
9 Stir up
10 Crunch and grind
11 Easily duped
12 Property recipient
13 British isle
14 Unit of work
20 Apprehends
22 Kreskin's forte?
23 Slapstick missile
24 Omelet item
26 __ chloride (refrigerant)
27 Turn right!
28 Religious figs.
30 Church part
31 Survivor of Sodom
36 Yup
37 Greek house?
38 Evaluator
39 Classified __
40 __ now brown cow?
41 Be obligated to
42 Fallacious
45 Diminutive creature
46 Soggy
48 Kitchen appliances
50 Maintain
52 Best of the best
53 Pork and veal
58 Deuces
59 Nabokov novel
60 Garden plot
61 Double bend
63 Sue __ Langdon
64 Sleep letters
65 Begley and

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	M	B	S	■	H	A	H	A	■	C	L	A	M
A	D	O	R	E	■	I	C	E	S	■	H	A	L	O
L	O	R	A	N	■	G	R	I	T	■	A	I	D	A
C	R	O	S	S	T	H	E	R	U	B	I	C	O	N
■	■	■	S	E	R	B	■	S	T	E	N	■	■	■
A	M	I	■	D	U	R	A	■	E	L	M	I	R	A
C	A	N	S	■	S	O	L	I	■	E	A	S	E	S
T	I	L	T	A	T	W	I	N	D	M	I	L	L	S
O	N	E	A	L	■	N	A	T	O	■	L	E	I	A
R	E	T	I	L	E	■	S	E	P	T	■	S	C	I
■	■	■	R	A	F	T	■	R	E	O	S	■	■	■
C	A	T	C	H	F	O	R	T	Y	W	I	N	K	S
U	V	E	A	■	O	N	E	A	■	E	M	A	I	L
B	E	S	S	■	H	E	N	I	■	R	O	D	E	O
A	R	T	E	■	I	R	O	N	■	S	N	A	R	E

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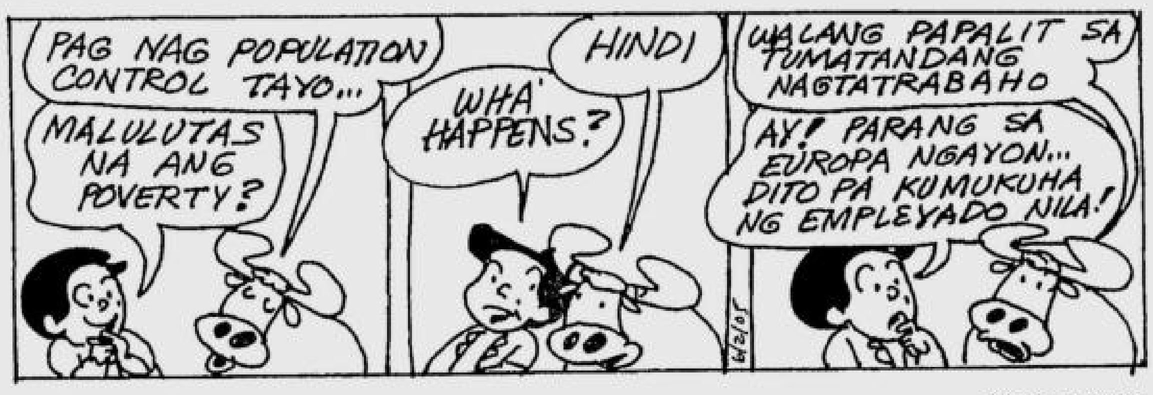
6/2/05

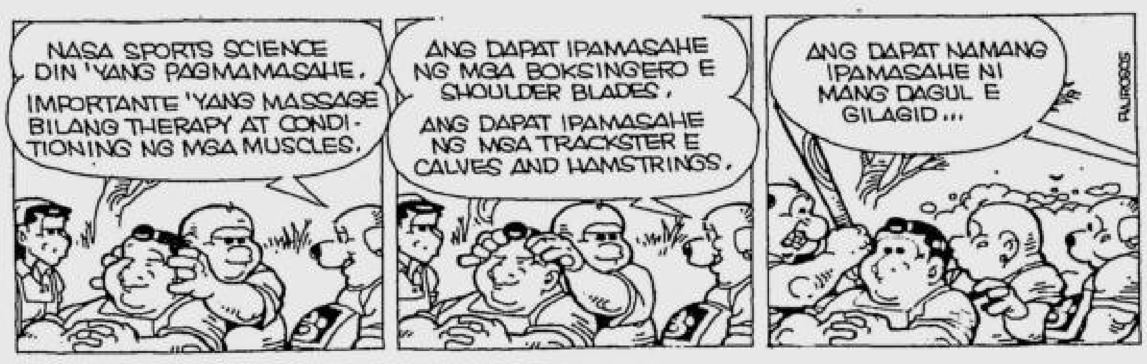
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG NAG POPULATION CONTROL TAYO...
MALULUTAS NA ANG POVERTY?
HINDI
WHA' HAPPENS?
WALANG PAPALIT SA TUMATANDANG NAGTATRABAHO
AY! PARANG SA EUROPA NGAYON... DITO PA KUMUKUHA NG EMPLEYADO NILA!
6/2/05

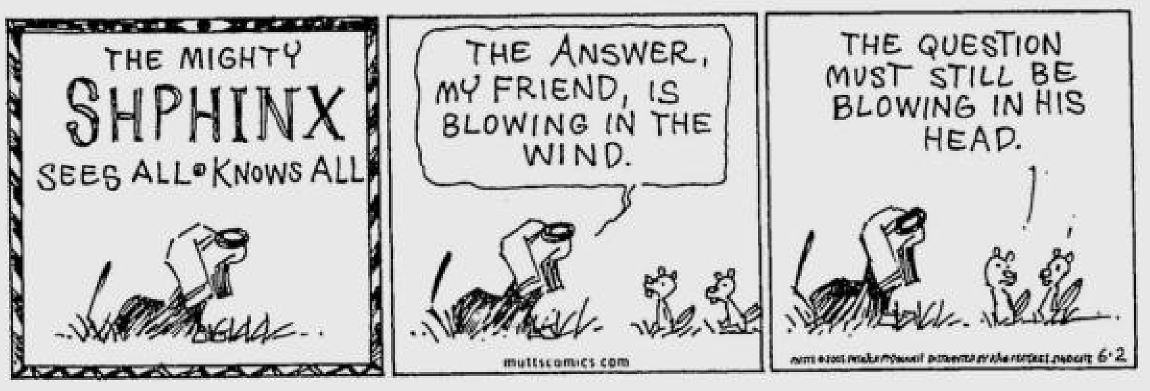
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NASA SPORTS SCIENCE DIN 'YANG PAGMAMASAHE.
IMPORTANTE 'YANG MASSAGE BILANG THERAPY AT CONDITIONING NG MGA MUSCLES.
ANG DAPAT IPAMASAHE NG MGA BOKSINGERO E SHOULDER BLADES.
ANG DAPAT IPAMASAHE NG MGA TRACKSTER E CALVES AND HAMSTRINGS.
ANG DAPAT NAMANG IPAMASAHE NI MANG DAGUL E GILAGID...

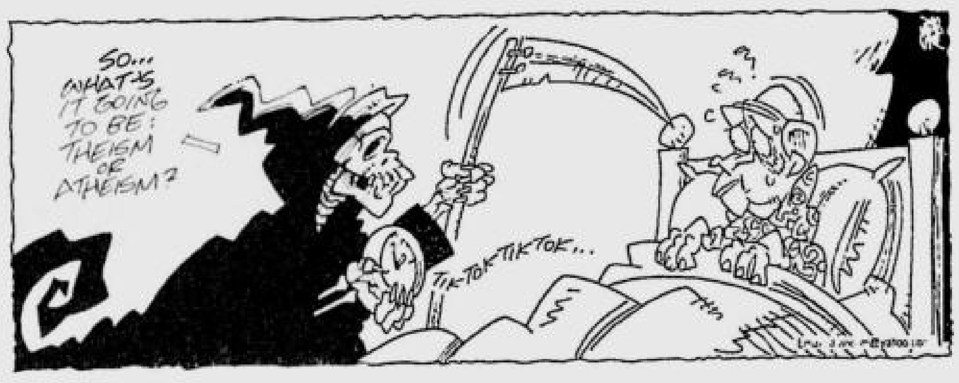
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE MIGHTY SHPHINX SEES ALL • KNOWS ALL
THE ANSWER, MY FRIEND, IS BLOWING IN THE WIND.
THE QUESTION MUST STILL BE BLOWING IN HIS HEAD.
muttscomics.com
6-2

DIVINE COMEDY

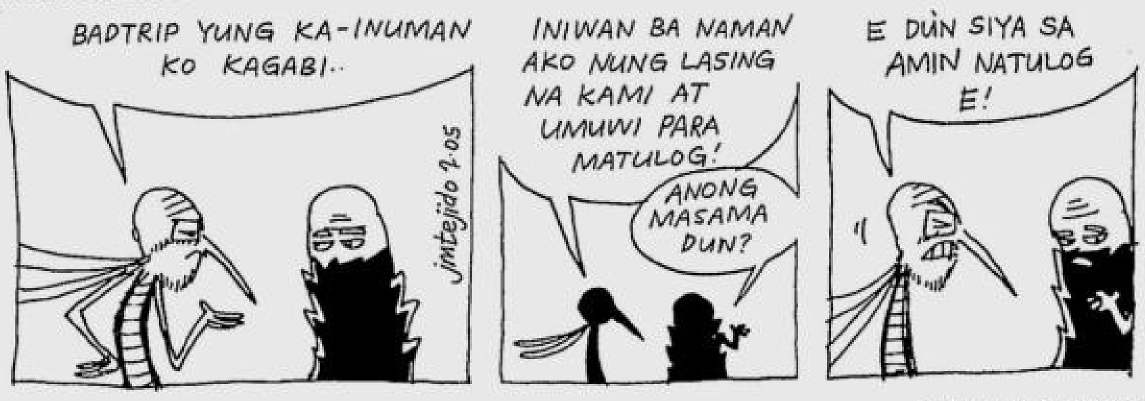
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SO... WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE: THEISM OR ATHEISM?
TIK-TOK-TIK-TOK...

A DYING AGNOSTIC MAKING A LAST DECISION

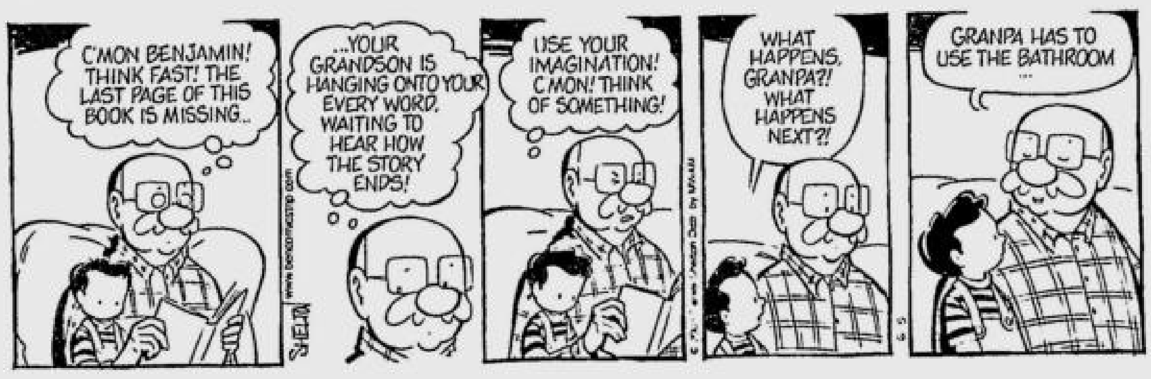
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP YUNG KA-INUMAN KO KAGABI..
INIWAN BA NAMAN AKO NUNG LASING NA KAMI AT UMUWI PARA MATULOG!
ANONG MASAMA DUN?
E DUN SIYA SA AMIN NATULOG E!
jmtejido 2.05

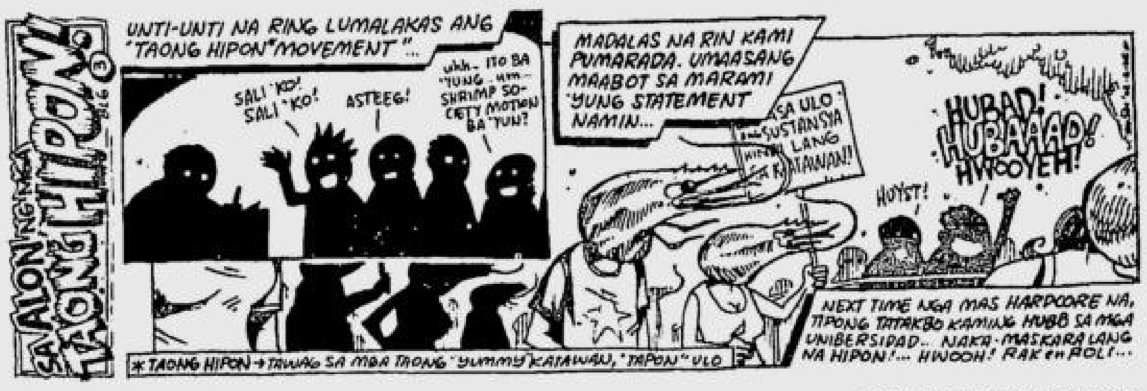
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON BENJAMIN! THINK FAST! THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BOOK IS MISSING..
...YOUR GRANDSON IS HANGING ONTO YOUR EVERY WORD. WAITING TO HEAR HOW THE STORY ENDS!
USE YOUR IMAGINATION! C'MON! THINK OF SOMETHING!
WHAT HAPPENS, GRANPA?! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!
GRANPA HAS TO USE THE BATHROOM ...

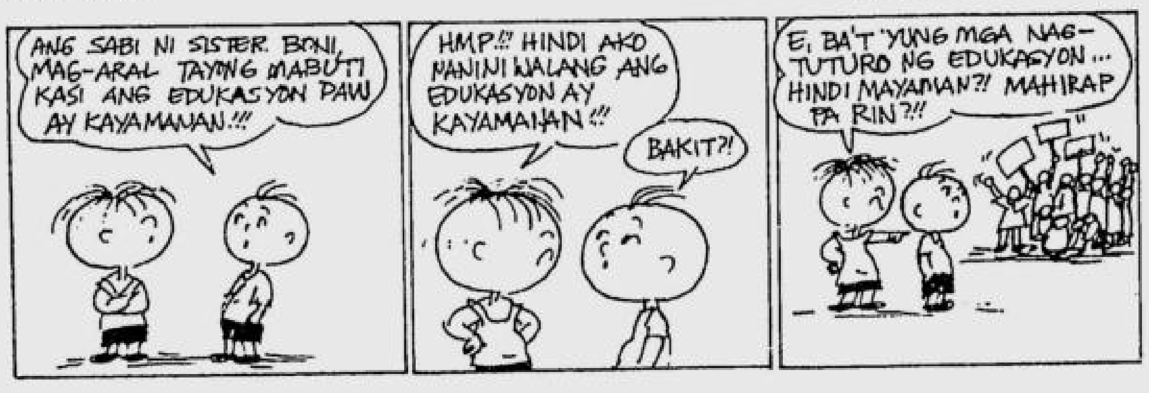
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA ALON NG 'TAONG HIPON'
UNTI-UNTI NA RING LUMALAKAS ANG "TAONG HIPON" MOVEMENT"...
SALI 'KO! SALI 'KO!
ASTEEG!
uhh.. ITO BA 'YUNG ..hm.. SHRIMP SOCIETY MOTION BA 'YUN?
MADALAS NA RIN KAMI PUMARADA. UMAASANG MAABOT SA MARAMI 'YUNG STATEMENT NAMIN...
SA ULO ANG SUSTANSYA HINDI LANG SA KATAWAN!
HUYST!
HUBAD! HUBAAAD! HWOOYEH!
NEXT TIME NGA MAS HARDCORE NA, TIPONG TATAKBO KAMING HUBB SA MGA UNIBERSIDAD.. NAKA-MASKARA LANG NA HIPON!... HWOOH! RAK en ROLI...
* TAONG HIPON → TAWAG SA MGA TAONG "YUMMY" KATAWAN, "TAPON" ULO

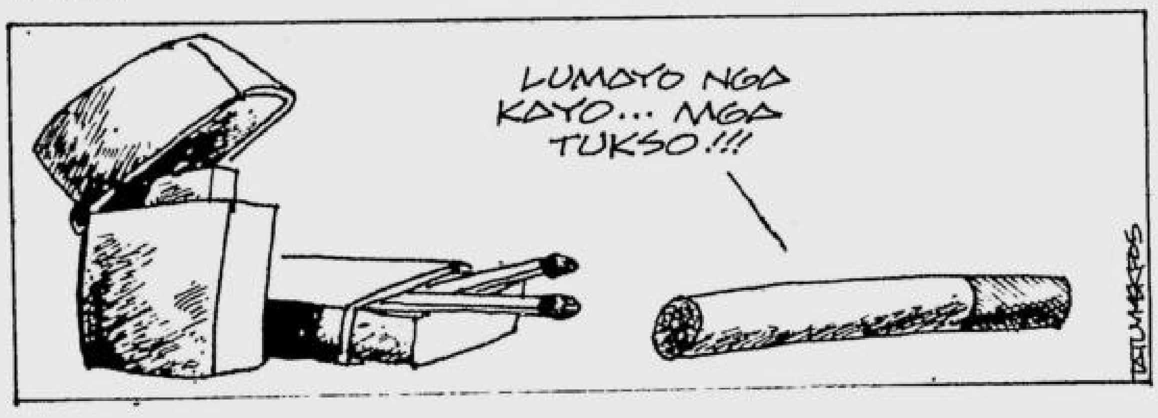
LOVEKNOTS

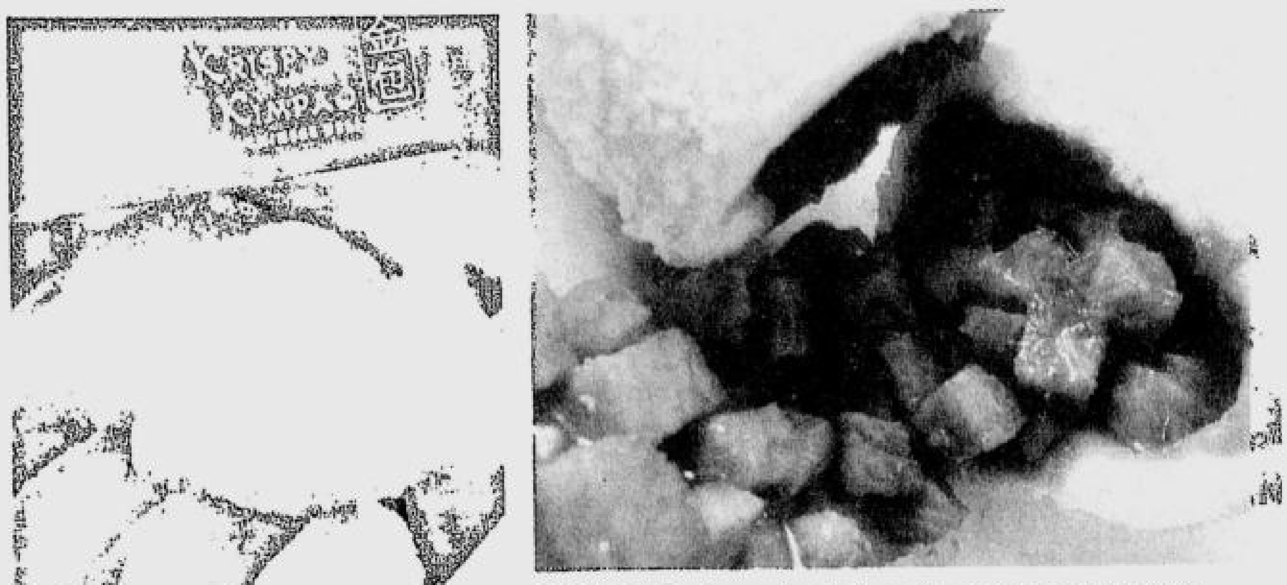
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI NI SISTER BONI, MAG-ARAL TAYONG MABUTI KASI ANG EDUKASYON DAW AY KAYAMANAN.!!!
HMP!!! HINDI AKO NANINIWALANG ANG EDUKASYON AY KAYAMANAN.!!!
BAKIT?!
E, BA'T 'YUNG MGA NAGTUTURO NG EDUKASYON... HINDI MAYAMAN?! MAHIRAP PA RIN?!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LUMAYO NGA KAYO... MGA TUKSO!!!



KIMPAO in Barbecue Asado Flavor (above), in box of 12 (left)

Gold bag filled with flavor

KRISPY Kimpao, meat-filled pastry that's a cross between *siopao* and *empanada*, is becoming a favorite food-to-go among Filipinos.

Kimpao, which literally means gold (*kim*) bag (*pao*), was introduced last year by Hans Kenneth Tan, an enterprising young Chinoy who thought commuters and busy professionals wanted a convenient snack food that's both filling and affordable.

He said he wanted to give people a tastier alternative to *siopao*, doughnuts and *empanada*. Kimpao has filling like *siopao* and fried like *empanada*.

Krispy Kimpao was inspired by the golden sweet buns that are usual breakfast fare in Mainland China. Tan developed the product with a Hong Kong chef. Fresh dough is prepared every day by chef himself.

Tan said the pastry was actually so good that it could be eaten without any filling. But the original idea was to give people a convenient meal.

Tan and his chef started with *asado* filling then added chicken teriyaki, beef curry and tuna. Ham and cheese were introduced for the kids.

Tan said only the freshest meat cuts and vegetables were used for fillings. Buns were also made fresh every day.

Krispy Kimpao now has stalls in several malls all over Metro Manila.

It sells for P20 and P25 and can be ordered by the dozen.

Pork chops in more ways than one

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

June 3—Pork Chops (all-new): Grilled with Onion Jam, Marinated and Grilled with Delicious Homemade Apple Sauce, Garlic Fried, Breaded and Fried with Sweet Soy Sauce, Brined Soft and Juicy Chops; Homemade Barbecue Sauce, Ketchup from Scratch, Fruit Sauces Peach and Pear, side dishes

June 4—Barbecue 101: Learn how to prepare Baby Back Ribs, Pork Chops, Tuna Steaks, Lamb Chops, Hamburgers, Chicken, Mixed Meat, Vegetable and Fruit Kebabs, Rubs and Marinades, 10 Barbecue Sauces, salads to side dishes. Perfect for hassle-free entertaining

June 6—Oven-baked Paella-stuffed Lechon de Leche (all-new): Make your own Lechon de Leche with Paella stuffing, soup, salad, sauces and dessert

June 8—Pinoy Merienda 2005 (all-new)—Squash Arroz Caldo with Tofu Crisps, Champorado Risotto with Ukoy, Pancit Luglug, Ube Guinataang with Mais and Stuffed Bilo-Bilo, Pichi-Pichi

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744 or 0917-8399888.

Set of standards for 'halal' food is long due

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

A SEMINAR last week on Malaysian *halal* food products was an eye opener to local consumers who attended the event. It was, for us, very enlightening. While we could not assure readers that we could now answer all their queries about *halal*, we could at least provide the contact numbers of *halal* experts.

We were surprised to find out that despite all the *halal* products in the market, the Philippines has yet to come up with its own set of standards and certification system.

A government official, who spoke at the seminar, explained that the Supreme Court had issued a ruling that the government should not encroach on religious matters. The official added the government could only provide support to a religious group that would set the standards and certification process.

Halal food, as we understood it from the description of the director of the Malaysian Islamic Daawah Foundation, "indicates that Muslims are permitted by their religion to consume food with the following specification:

(a) Does not consist or contain any part of an animal that a Muslim is prohibited by the laws of Islam (Hukum Syarak) to consume, or that has not been slaughtered in accordance with said law;

(b) Does not contain anything which is considered impure according to *Hukum Syarak*;

(c) Has not been prepared, processed or manufactured using any instrument that was not free from anything impure according to HS;

(d) Has not in the course of preparation, processing or storage been in contact with or (in) close proximity to any food that fails to satisfy paragraph a, b, c, or anything that is considered to be impure according to HS."

When it comes to slaughtering food animals, *halal* requires that the process is safe, comfortable and without pain to the animal. A sharp and smooth blade, for example, is used to cut through a specific spot on the neck such as major blood vessels. It is believed that the rapid loss of blood from the brain has an anesthesizing effect.

By the way, there are 10 abattoirs in Mindanao which has an estimated six million Muslim population, about 10 percent of the total Philippine population. Four new abattoirs are set to open soon, according to director Efren C. Nuestro of the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC). He is also the chair of the Halal Food Industry Development Committee of the Philippines.

Mindanao is now being eyed as a *halal* production center. That, of course, will depend on how soon the local authorities can come up with the *halal* standard and certification system.

Malaysian 'halal' fair

Fifteen Malaysian producers joined the Manila *halal* fair held at the Malaysian Embassy in Makati. Available were canned and frozen food, health food, organic food, pastries, cookies, condiments, beverages, cocoa products, fruit juices, ready-to-cook sauces and many more.

For more information on *halal*, write to Dr. H.J. Tating (Sulaiman) J. Nani, Halal program director of the Department of Agriculture-NMIC. His address is 1st Osita Subd., Koronadal City.

Kudos

A reader wants to commend MGE Transport Corp. for posting very prominent reminders for passengers in its vehicles. Hung behind the front seats of MGE taxis are signs reminding passengers to check their belongings before they get off the cab to make sure nothing is left behind.

The signs also display very clearly in large bold prints the plate and body numbers of the cab.

Cooking and baking basics

MAYA Kitchen is offering classes to introduce you to a vast array of culinary concepts and terminology, and teach you hands-on skills.

On June 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., "Traditional Japanese Recipes" will show you how to make such dishes as Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi. Assorted sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigri. You get a free Japanese cookbook.

Slated on the same date at 1:30-5 p.m., "Gulaman Delights" will teach you how to prepare desserts like Cathedral Window, Almond Gulaman Taho and Cooler, Buko-Pandan Jello, Fruity Chewy Salad and Coffee Mousse.

Learn the many uses of leftover rice on "Rice Toppings with Home-processed Meat Curing", 9 a.m.-1 p.m., June 11. Prepare Tapa Tips Garlic Rice, Native Longanisa Adobo Rice, Tocino Pineapple Rice, Tinapa Bagoong Rice, Crispy Corned Beef Kasubha Rice, Sweet and Sour Pork Parsleyed Rice and Tofu Teriyaki Rice.

Make your kids interesting and filling *baon* by enrolling in the "Pabaon Snacks" class, 1:30-5 p.m., June 11. Learn how to make Nutrideli Muffins, Crusted Beef Burger, Cheese Calzone and Fruity Chicken Sandwich. You get get a free snacks and *baon* cookbook.

"Cooking II" is a hands-on class to be held 8:30-1:30 p.m., June 7-10. The course covers: Review of Basic Culinary Principles; Meal Management; Knowledge of Herbs, Spices and Condiments; Basic Maintenance and Preservation of Food (Proper Receiving, .Storage and Preparation); Menu Planning, Kitchen Accounting and Recipe Formulation; Actual Workshop on International Cuisine; Ethnic Cooking, Hors d' oeuvre, Salads, Cooked/Cured/Prepared foods, Quick Desserts and Market Basket. Participants get a free Maya Kitchen's "Mix and Match 3" cookbook.

At 2-5:30 p.m., June 7-10, the class "Baking II" will cover baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries, bakery products including costing and batching applicable to bakery operation.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays to Saturdays) at 8/L, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail to mkitchen@ultilmate.info.com.ph

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Heavenly place for breakfast

From page D1

Heat 1 tbsp oil. Saute vegetable and garlic, add chicken broth until half cooked. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside.

In the same pan, saute the ham, *liempo* with 2 tbsp cooking oil.

Add rice. Mix well and add the rest of the ingredients.

Add cooked scrambled egg last. Mix well.

Tips

Use only cold, day-old rice; it's the only way you can be successful.

High pressure/heat helps. It allows fast cooking to lock out moisture.

What makes fried rice yellow in other establishments? My reply: food coloring. My smartest guess is there is no way eggs can color rice that yellow. But since I am not a Chinese food expert, I asked Chef Henry and he, too, said coloring.

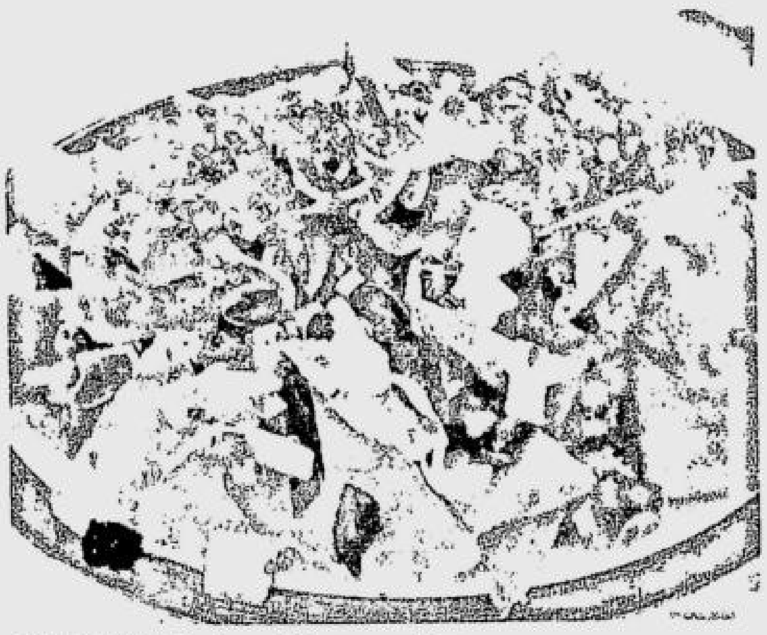
For the ingredients, go to Chinese groceries. Wei Wei and Great Faith in Binondo or DEC in Virramall or My Little Store along Wilson in Greenhills. Please call PLDT directory assistance for the addresses.

Burn ointment

What brand of burn ointment do you recommend?

JONATHAN TAN

Great Wall Brand, Chin Wan Hung Burn Ointment. Super *baho* but super *galing*! Available in Chinese drug stores. Absolutely no blisters! A must-have in the kitchen!



PINOY-STYLE Nachos at Heaven and Eggs

Could I please have a recipe fOR Tofu cheesecake? What kind of tofu should I use?

LILY DY

Ms Dy, hope this cheesecake was worth the wait. I like the 50/50 ratio of cream cheese to tofu. More tofu, I find, makes it hard. I like my cheesecakes baked—more flavor and better texture. Happy baking!

Tofu Cheese Cake

Crust:

1 ½ c Graham cracker crumbs
¼ c granulated sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
6 tbsp melted butter

Combine ingredients and press on nine-inch removable pan.

Cake:

1 cream cheese, softened
1 c Japanese silken tofu (in a tube), put on muslin cloth and squeeze dry.
1 c granulated sugar
4 large eggs
2 tbsp all-purpose flour
1 tsp each lemon and orange zest
1 tsp vanilla extract
3 tbsp heavy cream

Beat cream cheese and tofu with sugar until smooth.

Add eggs one at a time, beating each egg a minute before adding the next one.

Add the rest of the ingredients, mixing until well blended.

Bake at 350° F for 30-45 minutes.

Chill for six hours or overnight before serving.

Variations: Serve with whipped cream or with your choice of fruit topping.

For chocolate: Instead of 2 tbsp of flour, make it 1 tbsp flour + 1 tbsp cocoa powder.

For green tea: Add 1 ½ tbsp green tea powder available at Japanese groceries or Rustan's.

If making green tea or chocolate cheesecake, dust cheesecake with powdered sugar and/or serve with sweetened whipped cream.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT
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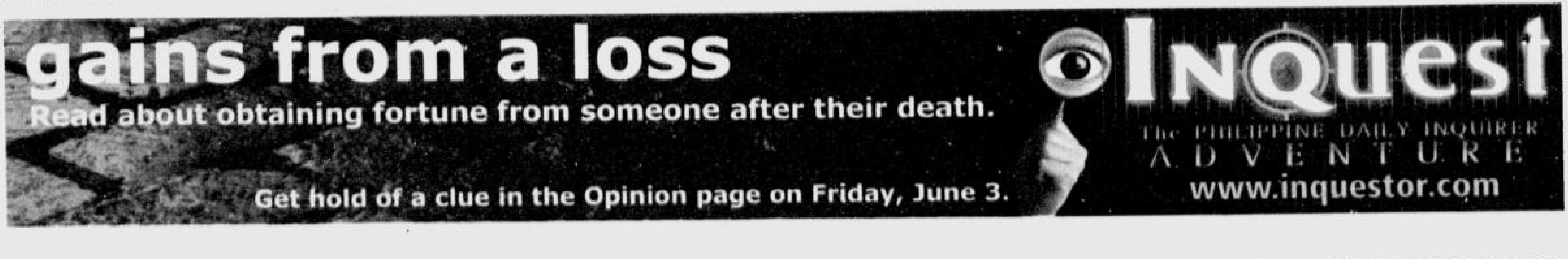
Classes will start on June 13.
Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.



gains from a loss
Read about obtaining fortune from someone after their death.
Get hold of a clue in the Opinion page on Friday, June 3.
InQuest
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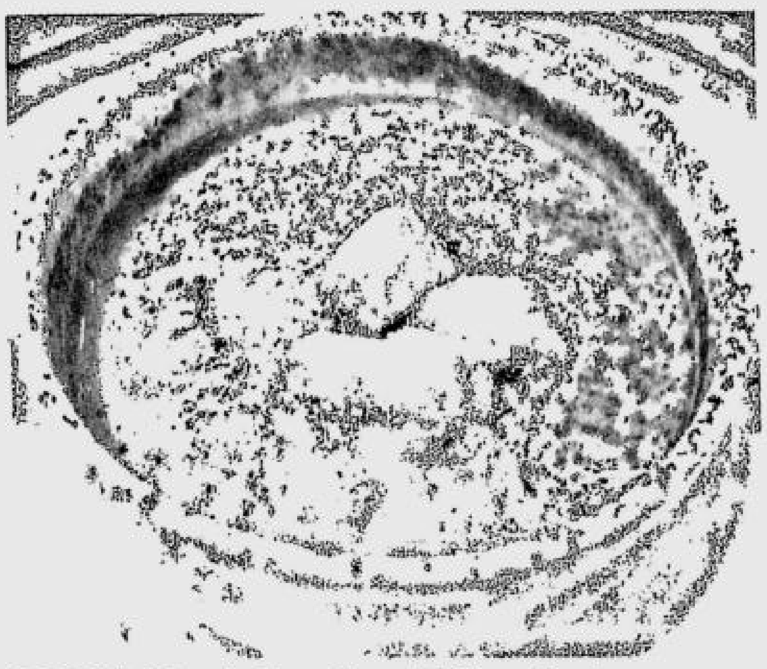
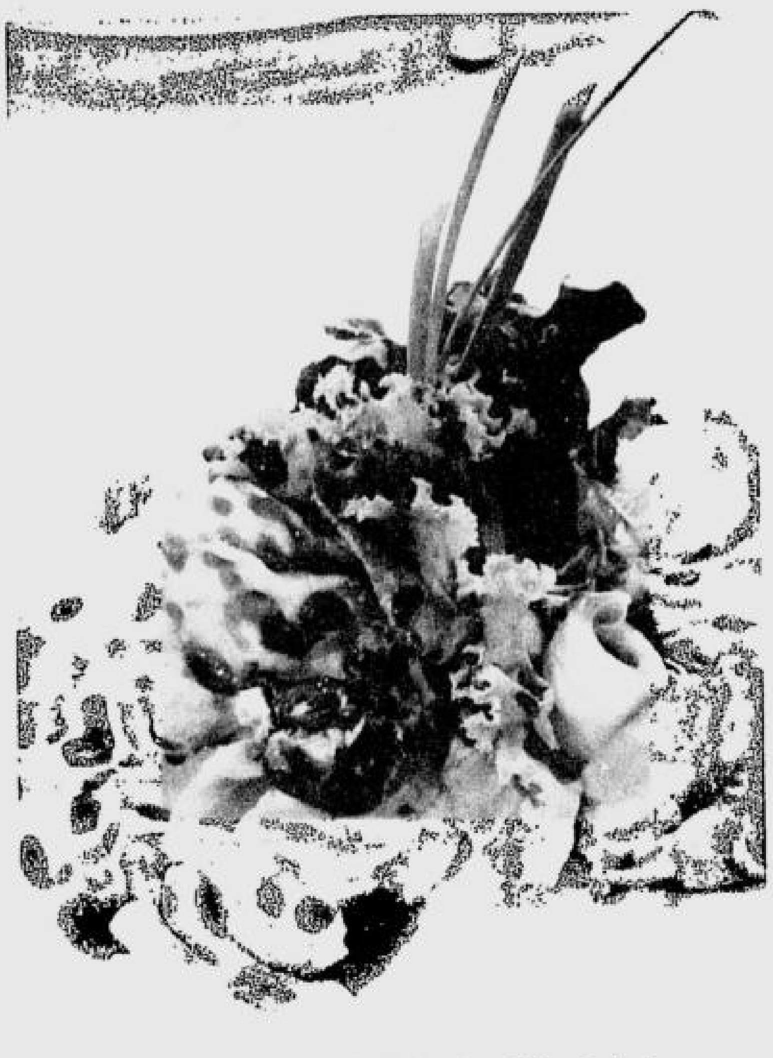
HERSHEY'S Dark Chocolate Cake

HERSHEY'S Symphony Souffle topped with Kisses


ROASTED Aubergine Cream Soup with Cheese Croutons and sprinkled with Hershey's Cocoa

The sweetest Kisses

Glenda Barretto uses Hershey's chocolates in the most unusual ways and comes up with some surprising dishes


SEAFOOD on Salad Greens with Balsamic and Hershey's Syrup Vinaigrette

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

DID YOU know that Hershey's the chocolate factory is named after the town of Hershey in central Pennsylvania? Did you also know that the factory produces about 33 million Hershey's Kisses every day? And that half a million packages of Hershey's Kisses are sold every Christmas and Valentine's Day?

Yes, for years Filipinos got their fill of Hershey's chocolates, initially, from "*pasalubongs*" from abroad and purchases from select food stores. But in 1997 when Hershey's Food Corp., now called the Hershey Company, opened its representative office in Manila to bring Hershey's fine chocolates to more Filipinos with sweet tooth.

In 2000, the Hershey Subsidiary Office opened, giving Pinoys greater access to more Hershey products from hot chocolate mixes and baking chips to syrups and ready-to-drink chocolate milk.

"Hershey's may be the first chocolate we ever knew," says Jerry Santiago, regional general manager for Hershey's Asia-South and president and general manager for Philippines and Japan. "In fact, its taste is probably how we define how chocolate should taste, perhaps even up to now. For over a hundred years, Hershey's chocolates has been satisfying our sweet tooth and bringing us all the happiness chocolate can give."

Hershey and its beginnings

The Hershey Company is the leading North American producer of chocolate and non-chocolate confectionery and grocery products. In fact, it's a great American classic that has survived two World Wars, The Great Depression, and a century of social and cultural change. It is now being enjoyed by 90 countries worldwide. Thanks to one man with an enterprising spirit: Milton S. Hershey.

Hershey was a farm boy from rural Pennsylvania who didn't even have a formal education. Despite two failed attempts at business and going nearly bankrupt by the time he was 30, Milton persisted with his confectionery endeavor. His efforts paid off when in 1900, he developed the perfect milk chocolate recipe that the world would eventually craves for.

The Hershey's Milk Chocolate bar was born and soon, his business grew immeasurably. More products followed under the Hershey banner to supply the demand of an insatiable market. The Hershey Pennsylvania Plant, also known as the largest chocolate factory in the world, is a proof of its achievement.

Scrumptious and versatile

Now, Hershey's chocolates are highly sophisticated and infinitely versatile food, especially when combined with other cooking ingredients, which create completely different taste and texture sensations.

Just recently, Hershey's company tapped the culinary expertise of restaurateur and kitchen goddess Glenda Barretto, who concocted an array of mouth-watering dishes, from appetizer to dessert, using Hershey's chocolates as ingredients. "We simply wanted to show our consumers how versatile and kitchen-friendly the chocolates can be," says Santiago.

Straight from Via Mare's kitchen in Greenbelt, Barretto, for starter, dished out Seafood on Salad Greens with Balsamic and Hershey's Syrup Vinaigrette. She followed that up by a bowl of Roasted Aubergine Cream with Cheese Croutons, sprinkled with Hershey's Cocoa.

"Cooking with chocolates is also a terrific way to add flavor to all kinds of dishes," says Barretto, who has been using chocolates every now and then in some of her food in the restaurant.

For the main entree, it was Beef Tenderloin topped with Hershey's Syrup Sauce. Desserts were aplenty, of course, to the delight of the afternoon media crowd—Hershey's Symphony Souffle topped with Kisses, Hershey's Dark Chocolate Decadent with Cream Fruit Fondue, Crispy Crepe with Fresh Mango and Hershey's Syrup, Hershey's Symphony-Coated Ice Cream, Chocolate Mousse with Slivers of Milk Chocolate with Hershey's Syrup Dusted with Hershey's Cocoa Powder.

Santiago discloses that among Hershey's line of chocolates, Kisses remains its top-selling product, followed by the chocolate bars.

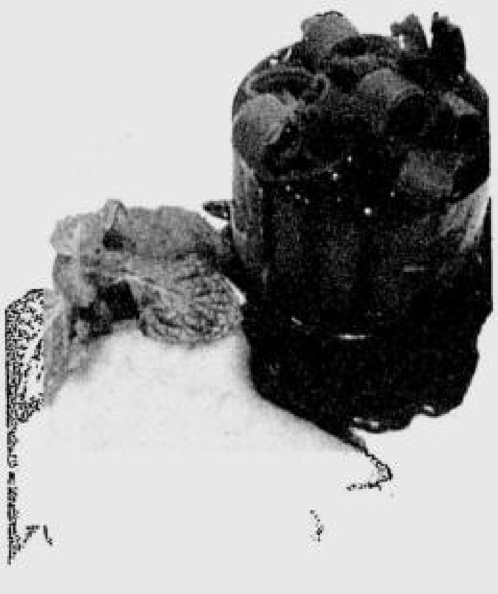
In a survey, women expressed preference for Kisses and Nuggets because they said they were figure-conscious and wanted to be "in control" of the amount of chocolates they eat.

Men in contrast indulge in chocolate bars and can finish up a huge bar. Now we know who the weaker sex really is.

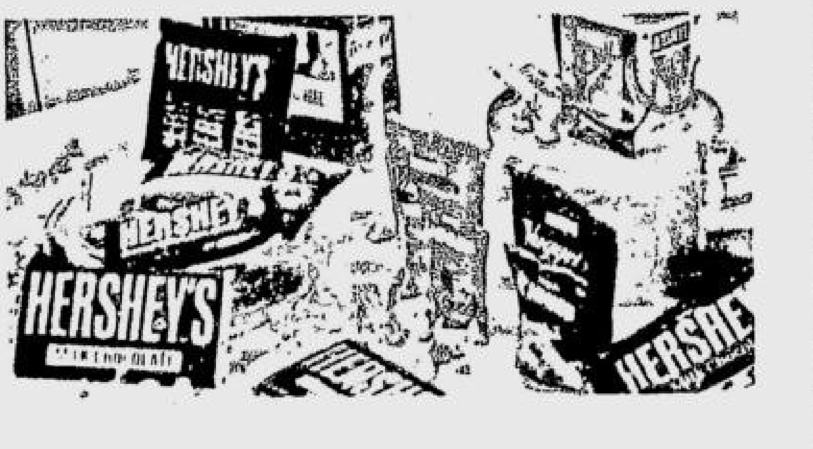
VIA MARE'S Glenda Barretto

JERRY Santiago of Hershey's Philippines

HERSHEY'S Dark Chocolate Decadent with Fruit Fondue


CHOCOLATE Mousse with Slivers of Milk Chocolate, with Hershey's Syrup Dusted with Cocoa Powder

BEEF Tenderloin in Hershey's Syrup Sauce


HERSHEY'S chocolate products include Kisses, Smores and Nuggets.

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